CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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6 killed as SUV falls into gorge in Tamhini Ghat

MUMBAI

Six youths out for a picnic were killed after their SUV fell into a 400-feet gorge at Tamhini Ghat in Maharashtra's Raigad district, police said on Thursday.

While the accident apparently took place in the early hours of Tuesday, police were informed only on Thursday morning, an official said, adding that the vehicle was traced with the help of a drone camera.

The victims, aged between 18 and 22 years, had set off from Pune in a Thar SUV late on Monday evening. The parents of some of the men approached police after losing contact with them since Tuesday morning. Following which, the police traced their mobile phone locations to Tamhini Ghat, and personnel of Mangaon police station launched a search operation on Thursday morning, they said.

After coming across a broken safety railing along a curve in the road, police deployed a drone and found the SUV stuck in a tree in the valley, he said. There were no eye witnesses but it is suspected that the driver lost control of the wheel at the spot leading to the accident, said the official. A rescue team of Raigad Police and local volunteers recovered the bodies on Thursday afternoon, he said.

Captain Nitish at 10.0...!

'Nirantar' Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for a record-shattering 10th time, capping a triumphant victory in the recent Assembly elections; of the 26 ministers, one is a Muslim

PATNA

Days after recording a landslide victory, JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar on Thursday sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a record 10th time at a grand ceremony held at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan.

Of the 26 Cabinet Ministers took oath on the occasion, 14 are from BJP, 8 from JD(U), 2 from LJP (RV) and one each from HAM (S) and RLM. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office and secrecy to them.

The NDA government has inducted nine new faces into the Cabinet, including LJP (RV)'s Sanjay Kumar Singh, who defeated Lalu Prasad Yadav's son Tej Pratap Yadav from the Mahua Assembly seat. Of the 26 ministers who took oath, one was a Muslim.

Kumar (74), one of the state's most influential political figures, is among the 10 longest-serving chief ministers in the country and has been in power for 19 years.

PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other bigwigs such as BJP national president JP Nadda, Unions ministers Rajnath Singh and Dharmenndra Pradhan attended the swearing-in ceremony. The CMs of several NDA-ruled states were also present.

The NDA-led by the JD(U) and the BJP secured a sweeping majority in the recently concluded Bihar elections 2025, winning 202 of the 243 assembly seats.

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'Victory of the people of Bihar'

After taking oath, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said, "This is a victory of the people of Bihar, of the democracy in Bihar, of the hard work of the people of NDA in Bihar, of PM Narendra Modi, of Nitish Kumar and of all NDA allies. The strong workers of Bihar worked hard and established democracy in Bihar. They didn't let Gunda Raj come to Bihar...I especially thank the women of Bihar who voted in large numbers... Bihar trusted PM Modi and CM Nitish Kumar".

Number of ministers (Party-wise breakup)

14	9	1	1	1
BJP	JD(U)	HAM(S)	LJP (RV)	RLM

Akhilesh congratulates Nitish

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav has congratulated JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar on being sworn in as the CM of Bihar. He said, "I extend heartfelt congratulations to Shri Nitish Kumar ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar. I also wish him success in running an independent governance model for the next five years based on his core socialist ideology, ensuring positive and welfare-driven initiatives for the people".

My best wishes to all those who have taken oath as Ministers in the Bihar Government. This is a wonderful team, with dedicated leaders who will take Bihar to new heights. Wishing them the very best.

He (Nitish Kimar) is a skilled and experienced administrator and has a splendid track record of good governance in the state. My heartfelt best wishes to him for the new term!.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Confident that the new NDA Government will accelerate Bihar's progress & contribute to our journey towards Viksit Bharat.

—S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS

Nitish Kumar (CM)	JD(U)
Ashok Choudhary	JD(U)
Mhd Zama Khan	JD(U)
Lesi Singh	JD(U)
Madan Sahni	JD(U)
Sunil Kumar	JD(U)
Vijay Choudhary	JD(U)
Bijendra P Yadav	JD(U)
Shravan Kumar	JD(U)
Vijay K Sinha	BJP
Samrat Choudhary	BJP
Dilip K Jaiswal	BJP
Mangal Pandey	BJP
Ram Kripal Yadav	BJP
Sanjay Singh Tiger	BJP
Arun S Prasad	BJP
Surendra P Mehta	BJP
Narayan Prasad	BJP
Rama Nishad	BJP
Lakhendra Roshan	BJP
Shreyashi Singh	BJP
Pramod Kumar	BJP
Nitin Nabin	BJP
Santosh Suman	HAM(S)
Sanjay Kumar	LJP(RV)
Deepak Prakash	RLM

Assam invokes 1950 expulsion law, orders 5 to leave India within 24 hrs

GUWAHATI

In the first recorded use of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950, since the state cabinet cleared procedures for its implementation earlier this year, the Sonitpur district administration of Assam has ordered five illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, who were declared 'foreigners' by a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT), to "remove" themselves from India within 24 hours.

The order, issued on November 19 by Sonitpur District Commissioner (DC) Ananda Kumar Das under the 1950 Act, required the five persons to "remove yourself from the territory of Assam, India within 24 hours from receiving this order via the Dhubri/Sribhumi/South Salmara-Mankachar route". The deadline expired on Thursday. They are Hanufa, Mariyam Nessa, Fatema, Monowara and Amjad Ali.

The case involving the five had reached the FT in 2006, based on a report filed by the Border Police. FTs are quasi-judicial bodies that handle cases of suspected illegal immigrants.

The DC told reporters that the FT had issued the order ex-parte as the persons allegedly never appeared during the hearings, despite holding multiple hearings. The five came under scrutiny when they were residing in Dhobokata village in the Jamugurihat area of the district.

"The SP (superintendent of police) visited the location but did not find them. He will give me a report on this. As long as they are not found, the case will continue," the DC stated.

The five, Hanufa, Mariyam Nessa, Fatema, Monowara and Amjad Ali, were declared foreigners by the FT ex parte on October 24.

He said he had issued directions to authorities to delete the names of the five persons if they were beneficiaries of government schemes. "The search for them will continue till we find them," he added.

In separate orders, the DC stated, "…being a Declared Foreigner, your presence in India/Assam is detrimental to the interest of the general public and also for the internal security of the state."

"Further, you are intimated that in the event of any default in complying with this order, the government would be compelled to take appropriate action to remove you from the territory of the State of Assam, India under the provisions of the above Act," the orders added.

Delhi blast: NIA arrests 4 more prime accused

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested four more prime accused involved in the November 10 deadly car blast outside the Red Fort in Delhi, taking the total number of arrests in the case to six.

Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai of Pulwama in J&K, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather of Anantnag of J&K, Dr Shaheen Saeed of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, and Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay of Shopian in J&K were taken into custody by the NIA in Srinagar on production orders from the district sessions judge in Patiala House Court.

As per NIA, they had all played a key role in the terror attack that killed 15 people and left many others injured. The NIA had earlier arrested two other accused - Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the car used in the blast was registered, and Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish, who had provided technical aid to the terrorist involved in the deadly attack.

The four accused arrested will be confronted with those arrested earlier. "Their interrogation is continuing as part of NIA's efforts to unravel the complete terror conspiracy in the case RC-21/2025/NIA/DLI", the NIA stated.

'UNNECESSARY DEBATE'

My power is secure now and in the future: CM

CHAMARAJANAGAR

It's a superstition that if I come to Chamarajanagar, I will lose power, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Speaking to reporters at the Chamarajanagar helipad on Thursday, sincere efforts are being made to fulfill the promises made to the people in the past five years.

"I keep visiting Chamarajanagar as I do not believe in superstitions and rumors. I see all the districts of the state as equal and visit all the districts. It is a superstition that if I come to Chamarajanagar, I will lose power. I visited here to dispel that superstition, and I said that my power will be secure now and in the future," he said.

'If I had remained in JD(S), I would not have become CM'

Nehru's vision was that one school, one gram panchayat, one cooperative society was essential for the economic development of rural India. The cooperative movement in the country was strengthened due to his vision, the CM said.

Inaugurating the 72nd All India Cooperative Week, he said due to this vision of Nehru, the Cooperative Week is inaugurated every year on his birth anniversary.

"Today, the cooperative movement and cooperative societies are growing in several sectors including agriculture, dairy farming, industry, banking in the state. This is a healthy development," he said.

"When I was the Animal Husbandry Minister, I gave full support to the autonomy and self-reliance of milk producers' cooperative societies.

QUICK READ

Nelamangala residents protest against garbage orders

Bengaluru

Residents of Sompura in Nelamangala taluk protested by dumping garbage in front of the local panchayat office. The protest was sparked after Panchayat Development Officer Ravishankar allegedly asked them to dispose of waste at a cemetery in the Sompura industrial area. Locals had previously raised concerns about this practice and demanded action against the officer for his instructions. The incident has caused frustration among residents over the government's handling of public grievances. This protest coincides with the Greater Bengaluru Authority's ongoing campaign against littering, which includes fines for dumping waste in unauthorized areas.

Bengaluru hospital raided over sex determination

Bengaluru

Health officials raided a hospital in Vijayanagara over suspicions of illegal foetal sex determination. The team, led by Dr. Vivek Dorai, Deputy Director of the Health Department, seized an unauthorized scanning machine and medicines reportedly used for sex determination tests. The scanning room has been sealed, and investigations are ongoing under the PCPNDT Act. This crackdown follows earlier operations in Mandya and nearby areas targeting networks involved in female foeticide. Authorities said strict action will be taken against those found violating the law to curb sex determination practices and protect unborn female children in the state.

K'taka announces compensation for dog-bite victims

Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has introduced a compensation scheme for victims of dog-bite incidents. Families of those who die from dog attacks will receive Rs 5 lakh as relief. For non-fatal injuries, including skin punctures, deep bruises, lacerations, or multiple bites, a total of Rs 5,000 will be provided—Rs 3,500 directly to the victim and Rs 1,500 to the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust for treatment costs. The initiative aims to provide financial support and medical assistance to affected individuals while raising awareness about stray dog safety and preventive measures in the state.

BESCOM delays leave new Bengaluru homes in dark

'We have applied both online and offline, but yet to get connections'

BENGALURU

Many home owners in Bengaluru are upset as their newly-built houses are not getting electricity connections even after completing all the formalities. Families ready to move into their new homes are struggling because BESCOM officials are delaying approvals, leaving homes dark and unusable.

Residents across areas such as Basavanagudi and other parts of the city said they have applied both online and offline for LT1 and LT3 electricity connections. Despite submitting all required documents, they have not received permission letters. Some homeowners have been waiting for nearly three months, visiting BESCOM offices repeatedly. They said officials keep giving reasons such as server problems or the unavailability of staff, causing further delays.

People also pointed out that the State Cabinet had approved electricity connections for homes up to 1200 square feet even without OC-CC. However, BESCOM is not following this decision, causing disappointment among applicants. Many property owners with B Khata documents are completely without electricity, forcing them to postpone housewarming ceremonies and daily activities.

Across the state, more than four lakh applications for electricity connections are still pending. Applicants said they feel helpless, as their repeated visits to BESCOM offices have not resulted in any progress. Many have expressed anger and frustration towards both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, urging them to take strict action and ensure faster processing of applications.

Citizens stressed that even after completing construction and paying all charges, staying without electricity is causing financial and emotional stress. They demanded that BESCOM speed up the process, solve internal issues, and respect the government's decision so that homeowners can finally move into their homes without further delay.

Report trees that pose threat to people, property: Corp

BENGALURU

'Many old and weak trees along roads and on government land are being removed by the Forest Department as a safety measure. If residents find any, they can report the same'

The Bengaluru West City Corporation has asked residents to help identify dry or dangerous trees that may pose a threat to people and property.

Officials say many old and weak trees along roads and on government land are being removed by the Forest Department as a safety measure.

Residents living within the West City Corporation limits are encouraged to report any risky trees or broken branches as soon as they notice them. People can call the helpline numbers 1533 or 9480685703 to share details. They can also send photographs, along with the GPS location and address, to the officials in charge of each assembly constituency through phone call or WhatsApp.

For the Rajajinagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Govindarajanagar, and Malleswaram areas, residents may contact Range Forest Officer Sudarshan A. at 9480683341. In Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Yeshwanthpur's Dasarahalli wards (38, 39, 40, 41), Deputy Range Forest Officer Jagadeesh V. can be reached at 9880516322. People in Basavanagudi and Vijayanagar's Padmanabhanagar wards (161, 165, 166, 167, 180, 183) may report issues to Deputy Range Forest Officer B. B. Meti at 9740576919.

BNCC chief orders quick fixing of damaged footpaths

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has directed officials to quickly install slabs on footpaths and on areas where underground drainage work is already completed. He gave these instructions during a morning inspection from R.K. Hegde Nagar to Bellahalli Checkpoint on Thanisandra Main Road.

During the joint inspection with BESCOM and BWSSB teams, the Commissioner noticed many spots where slabs were broken or missing, creating danger for people walking on the road. He ordered that all slab work must be completed within one week. Since the road is still under the maintenance period, contractors are required to fix these issues. If they fail to act, their security deposit will be taken back. He also warned that both present and former Executive Engineers will face action for poor supervision.

The Commissioner issued several key directions during the inspection. He warned shopkeepers against dumping waste on roads and footpaths, after seeing garbage at many places. He instructed the Byatarayanapura Division AGM to take strict action, even closing shops that continue to violate waste rules.

He also pulled up BESCOM for leaving cables on footpaths after cutting the road. BESCOM engineers were ordered to remove the cables and restore the footpaths within a week. BWSSB was also warned to immediately restore the road at Sampigehalli Cross, where it had been dug up and left incomplete.

Damaged streetlight poles and exposed live wires were found along Thanisandra Main Road and in Basalingappa Layout. The Electrical Division was directed to repair them quickly. Stagnant water near the CMA Palace Convention Hall must also be cleared the same day.

Min Patil plans London visit to boost investments

BENGALURU

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M. B. Patil announced that he will lead a high-level delegation to London from November 24 to 26 to attract fresh investments from major UK-based companies. He shared the details after meeting Seema Malhotra, the UK Minister for Commonwealth Affairs and Development, and Linda Cameron, the British High Commissioner to India, in Bengaluru.

Patil said the Free Trade Agreement signed earlier this year between India and the United Kingdom has created a positive atmosphere for investment and cooperation. During the visit, the delegation will meet senior leaders of several well-known companies, including Element-6, ARM, Linde, Martin-Baker, Fido AI, Oxford Space Systems, Green Jets, Nanopore Tech, Group Rhodes, The Senator Group, The Latos Group and Samco Holdings. The aim is to encourage these firms to set up or expand their operations in Karnataka.

He explained that the State is focusing on strengthening economic ties with the UK in key areas such as higher education, technology exchange, high-tech manufacturing, aerospace, defence, electric vehicles, clean energy, and research-driven industries. The team will also take part in a meeting organised by the UK-India Business Council.

BECC hold meet on improving animal welfare, infra works

BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Commissioner DS Ramesh led a review meeting to strengthen animal welfare work and improve key infrastructure in the city.

The meeting focused on Animal Birth Control (ABC), Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV), and other important steps to protect community dogs and public safety.

The Commissioner instructed officials to make the ABC and ARV programmes faster and more organised. Each zone must now complete 50 ABC surgeries every day, reaching a total of 100 surgeries daily through two agencies. Since the current ABC and ARV tenders will end in January, officials must prepare and finalise new and separate tenders before this month ends.

For the Mass Dog Vaccination (MDV) drive, officials were told to create packages based on the updated 50 wards and invite tenders for the remaining two packages. To improve dog health, the Commissioner also directed the team to buy combo vaccines that protect against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza in one shot.

Following Supreme Court guidelines, officials must identify land for new dog shelters. If land is not available, agencies with full animal welfare capacity should be hired. All public places such as schools, hospitals, bus stands, and government offices must now be monitored for stray dogs, and officials should work with each institution for necessary action.

The land selected near Horamavu for the new ABC centre must be fenced immediately. At least 100 feeding points for community dogs will be marked with signboards, and a public notice will be issued. The Corporation will also begin procuring microchips to track dog populations.

A strong IEC campaign will be launched to spread awareness in apartments and RWAs. SPCA and NGO representatives will support these efforts.

Students encouraged to learn, love Kannada

BENGALURU

At the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava celebration held at Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies in Kengeri, educationist Dr. Geetha Ramanujam stressed the need to uphold the greatness of Kannada by teaching the language to non-native speakers. She said Kannada continues to thrive in villages, but many people in cities hesitate to speak it. According to her, some fear that using Kannada may lower their dignity, while others feel uncomfortable speaking the language. She urged students to understand the value of Kannada and share its importance with everyone around them.

Dr. Geetha explained that Karnataka welcomes people from many states who come for work, and it is the shared responsibility of the local community to teach Kannada and help them learn the language with pride. She said that in Bengaluru, many people try to forget Kannada and use only their own languages. Instead of accepting this change, she encouraged everyone to speak Kannada first and to share the beauty of "Kasturi Kannada" with confidence.

Seshadripuram Educational Endowment Honorary Treasurer B. M. Parthasarathy also spoke at the event.

New tech promises smarter parking for Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Bengaluru's growing parking troubles may soon ease, as the city's Traffic Police have put forward a new plan to introduce advanced mechanised Multi Level Car Parking (MLCP) systems at 66 locations across the city. The proposal comes after a recent high-level meeting where officials were asked to find practical solutions to the worsening parking crisis.

The new technology uses tall, nine-storey metal structures that lift and stack cars vertically with the help of hydraulic systems. Because these structures do not need concrete buildings, they can fit into smaller spaces and cost less to build. Officers say this makes the model suitable for a fast-growing city where free land is shrinking every year.

Joint Commissioner of Traffic, Karthik Reddy, explained that Hyderabad already uses this system successfully. Drivers simply leave their cars in a bay area. A rotating pulley and lift then move the vehicle to an empty slot above. When the driver returns, the machine brings the car back down in the same smooth way. According to officials, this also reduces congestion.

Most of the proposed MLCP spots are near metro stations and busy commercial zones, where parking demand is highest.

Work with loyalty, passion, engineers told

BENGALURU

Greater Bangalore Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said engineers can deliver high-quality work only when they develop loyalty and passion for their profession.

Speaking at a two-day capacity-building workshop held on November 20 and 21 at the Administrative Research Institute, he told engineers and contractors from the five municipal corporations that attention to detail and proper procedures are essential for achieving better project outcomes. He said Bengaluru should aim for complete public transport connectivity. Citizens who choose to walk should be able to reach any part of the city through a well-linked public transport network, and this principle must guide future projects.

INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

India's knowledge tradition still guides people: Guv

BENGALURU

A two-day national conference on the importance of Indian knowledge systems opened at St. Paul's College in Bengaluru, with Karnataka Governor Shri Thawarchand Gehlot leading the inauguration. The event was organized by the college's Department of Languages along with the Central Hindi Directorate and the Karnataka State University College Hindi Professors' Association.

In his address, the Governor explained that India's knowledge tradition still guides people in today's busy and stressful world. He said that modern life is full of pressure, technology, and environmental problems, but Indian wisdom teaches balance, self-control, and peaceful living. He added that India's core values remain important even in an age shaped by artificial intelligence, globalization, and climate change.

Governor Gehlot spoke about the long history of Indian thought built by sages, saints, and great teachers. He mentioned the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Buddhist and Jain teachings, as well as works like Panini's grammar, Charaka and Sushruta Samhita, and the Natya Shastra. He said these texts show how rich and wide Indian knowledge has been for thousands of years.

He also praised ancient scientists such as Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bhaskaracharya, and Nagarjuna, noting that India once led the world in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and environmental care. He reminded the audience that old learning centers like Nalanda and Takshashila attracted students from many countries. The Governor said India must blend its old wisdom with new ideas to face social and environmental challenges.

Bihar defeat leaves DKS disappointed: Yatnal

BENGALURU

Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal mocked Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, saying the Congress leader's recent talk about "sacrifice" shows his growing frustration.

Yatnal claimed that Shivakumar had invested heavily—politically and financially—in the Bihar elections, but suffered a big defeat, leaving him disappointed and confused. According to Yatnal, the Congress high command now fully supports Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, fearing that any internal conflict might cost the party its hold on Karnataka.

Yatnal also alleged that Shivakumar currently has no loyal MLAs and has "disappeared" politically.

He added that he was expelled from the party because some leaders believed he was standing in the way of a supposed plan to form a government led jointly by Shivakumar and BJP leader Vijayendra.

QUICK READ

PSI Recruitment Scam: Accused R.D. Patil Granted Interim Bail

Kalaburagi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday (Nov. 19) granted three weeks of interim bail to R.D. Patil, one of the main accused in the PSI recruitment scam. Patil had submitted a petition to the Supreme Court stating, "The religious rituals for my daughter's wedding must be completed by December 4, so I request interim bail." Hearing the petition, the single-judge bench of Justice K. Vinod Chandran noted that the charge-sheet in the case have already been filed and that the trial is likely to take more time, as there are a large number of witnesses involved. Therefore, the court stated that granting the applicant three weeks of interim bail would be appropriate. The Supreme Court also directed that once the bail period ends, the applicant must appear before the trial court.

Supreme Court grants R.D. Patil three-week bail

Kalaburagi

The Supreme Court has granted a three-week interim bail to R.D. Patil, who is identified as the primary accused in the alleged irregularities linked to the recruitment examination for 545 PSI posts. As per the information received around 11:30 a.m. on November 20, Patil had approached the apex court with a formal request for temporary bail. In his plea, he explained that an important family event was scheduled to take place at his residence and sought permission to remain out on bail for a period of three weeks so he could attend it. After considering the reasons stated in his application, the Supreme Court decided to allow his request and approved conditional interim bail. The court's decision pro

Farmers Halt Protest as Sugarcane Price Set ₹2,950

Bidar farmers end eight-day protest as Karnataka government fixes sugarcane price at ₹2,950 per ton, promising local seed center

BIDAR

In Bidar, farmers have called off their ongoing protest following the government's decision to fix the sugarcane price at ₹2,950 per ton. The protest, which had been continuing for nearly eight days at Ambedkar Circle in the city, was initially staged to demand a higher price for their crop.

On Thursday, acting on the directives of the District In-Charge Minister, the district administration officially announced the revised sugarcane rate of ₹2,950 per ton. This announcement led to the withdrawal of the farmers' sit-in. Earlier, the administration had set the sugarcane price at ₹2,900 per ton, which the farmers rejected. In response, they began an overnight dharna, maintaining round-the-clock vigils and other symbolic forms of protest to highlight their demands. During the agitation, Minister Ishwar Khandre personally visited the site and engaged in discussions with the protesting farmers.

Farmers' leader Mallikarjun Swamy said that although the revised price of ₹2,950 per ton does not fully meet their expectations, they are encouraged by the administration's assurance to establish a sugarcane seed research center locally. Currently, farmers in the district have to procure seeds from other districts and states, and the new center is expected to benefit them significantly. He added that this initiative, combined with the price revision, prompted the farmers to halt their protest peacefully.

The resolution represents a temporary settlement of the agitation, demonstrating the government's responsiveness to farmers' concerns while also focusing on long-term agricultural development in the region. The administration's efforts aim to ensure fair pricing for farmers and support initiatives to improve local sugarcane cultivation and seed availability.

'Foster Curiosity and Interest in Learning Among Children'

BALKI

Dr. Shashikant Udikeri, Vice-Chancellor of Gulbarga University, emphasized that teachers should adopt innovative methods to spark curiosity and a love for learning in children. He was speaking at the inauguration of a learning awareness program organized on Thursday at the experience hall of Channabasaveshwar Gurukul in Karadyaal, under the Hiremata Sansthana Vidyapeetha Trust.

Dr. Udikeri noted that a child's mind is like soft clay that can be shaped in any form. Providing value-based education from an early age can help such children grow into responsible citizens. He expressed concern that the increasing pressures and distractions in today's world are eroding the value of education. Primary education plays a crucial role in shaping a child's future.

He stressed that teachers must continuously update their knowledge and teach according to children's intellectual levels to nurture a genuine interest in learning. Explaining the significance of national festivals, sharing the lives of great personalities, and encouraging participation in sports can further motivate students.

Hiremata Sansthana Peethadhipati Gurubasava Pattaddevu highlighted that excessive mobile usage is causing vision problems among children, and it is everyone's responsibility to keep children away from unnecessary screen time. Progressive thinker Siddappa Moolge delivered the introductory address.

Other notable speakers included Dr. Kiran Gajanur, Professor, Central University of Kalaburagi, and Drs. Arun Joldagi, Jyothi, and Devika from Dr. Ambedkar Degree College, who conducted interactive sessions. Jyothna Ambedkar gave a lecture on yoga education.

Present were Syndicate member Raghavendra Bhairappa of Gulbarga University, District President Vijaykumar Patil of the Funded Pre-University Colleges' Employees' Association, Administrative Officer Mohan Reddy, among others. Cultural programs included vachana recitals by Savita Bhure and Sudha Nayak.

Principal Basavaraj Molakire welcomed the guests, Madhu Kumar Gavankar served as the master of ceremonies, and Balaji Vallure offered the vote of thanks.

Shaping Young Minds: Value-Based Education Key to Developing Responsible, Motivated Students, Says Dr. Udikeri

"Children today are highly intelligent, but compassion and empathy are declining. Teachers must adopt timely and appropriate teaching methods to impart life lessons alongside academic knowledge."
—Gurubasava Pattaddevu, Hiremata Sansthana, Balki

Tata Ace rams into school vehicle, students injured

MUDGAL

Near K. Mariyammanahalli, a Tata Ace vehicle collided with a school vehicle belonging to JMJ School, resulting in minor injuries to eight students. The incident occurred around 5 p.m. on Wednesday when the school vehicle was traveling from K. Mariyammanahalli to Mudgal town. At that time, a Tata Ace coming from the opposite direction hit the school vehicle.

Students Chanda Pasha, Imran Chanda Pasha, Saba Mudgal, and Srinivas Ramanna Uppar were among those injured. The injured students were admitted to the Community Health Centre in Mudgal, and three of them were later shifted to the Government Hospital in Lingasugur for further treatment.

A case has been registered at the Mudgal Police Station.

MLA Reviews Chintaki and Ballur(J) Hostels, Demands Rapid Progress

AURAD

MLA Prabhu Chavan visited Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Girls' Residential School in Chintaki and Smt. Indiragadi Residential School in Ballur(J) village on Friday to review the progress of ongoing construction work. He inspected classrooms, laboratories, computer labs, the library, dining hall, and girls' hostels to evaluate the quality and pace of the projects. "During my tenure as minister, I made concerted efforts to establish residential schools for providing free and quality education to underprivileged children, securing necessary grants to initiate these projects," he stated.

At Ballur(J) Residential School, he checked that the work was being executed as per approved estimates, examining hostel beds, classroom benches, and other facilities.

He emphasized that all equipment must meet quality standards and warned that lapses would not be tolerated. Contractors and officials were reprimanded for delays, and he directed that all work be completed promptly, with officials regularly monitoring the sites. Any deficiencies must be corrected immediately, failing which contractors could be blacklisted, and strict action taken against officials.

During the visit, students requested a new hostel due to overcrowding in the temporary building. MLA Chavan assured them that a grand hostel with a ₹15 crore grant would be constructed, with work beginning within a month. He also addressed water supply issues at Ballur(J), promising arrangements for around 250 students.

Officials present included Assistant Executive Engineer Premasagar, Engineer Ramesh Kote, and leaders and principals from the district and Karnataka Residential Education Institutions Association.

Cinematic-Style Robbery of Gold Worth Over ₹23 Lakh and Cash

BIDAR

A group of robbers staged a cinematic-style heist on Highway-65 near Basavakalyan, puncturing the tires of a moving car with a jack. The vehicle, carrying women, was robbed of gold jewelry worth approximately ₹23.90 lakh and cash of ₹1.6 lakh.

The victims were residents of Yethgaon village in Sangli district, Maharashtra, traveling to attend a relative's wedding reception. According to reports, 6 to 8 robbers deliberately blocked the moving car, threatened the passengers, and snatched their valuables.

A case has been registered at Basavakalyan City Police Station in connection with the incident.

Government Implements RAMP Scheme for MSME Development: Surekha Munoli

BIDAR

The government has launched the RAMP scheme to strengthen MSME growth, promote self-reliance, and generate employment, said Surekha Munoli, Joint Director of the District Industries Department. She spoke at a one-day workshop under the RAMP initiative at the DCC Bank's Sahar training center, organized jointly by the MSME Directorate (KSTIU), Bangalore, and the District Industries Center, Bidar, for aspiring entrepreneurs. The workshop focused on trades, environmental management, and human resource development.

Munoli highlighted that after agriculture, MSMEs employ the largest workforce in India and contribute nearly 28% to the GDP. The RAMP scheme has allocated ₹3,000 crore to support 5.55 lakh small enterprises, with over 200 in Bidar slated for upgrades to improve productivity and efficiency.

She noted that industrial setup procedures have been simplified, and entrepreneurs can access benefits like lower interest rates, special grants, collateral-free loans, and other financial incentives. A Reserve Bank mechanism ensures prompt advance payments through banks if buyers delay bill settlements. Entrepreneurs must register on the enterprise portal, maintain good CIBIL ratings, and complete GST and income tax registration, with all payments routed via bank accounts.

B.G. Shetkarr, Commerce Board Chairman, said government incentives now encourage youth participation. Vijaykumar, President of the District SC/ST Entrepreneurs Association, urged patience, while Devendrappa, President of the District Pharmaceutical and Chemical Associations, offered guidance. Shivraj Haleshetti assured mentorship from senior entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial awareness is promoted in schools and colleges, said Sachchidananda Chidre. Female entrepreneur and Ubuntu award winner Shakuntala Sharathkumar was felicitated, alongside Chikki manufacturer Sujata Aurad, garment entrepreneur Baburao Vadagam, pottery entrepreneur Baburao Naubad, and millet entrepreneur Bhavan Sidak Center's Sayabanna and S.G. Patil.

SPACE ODYSSEY

The students of Kalaburagi's S.R.N. Mehta CBSE School, who won the first prize in the 8th-grade category of the National Space Society (NSS) Space Settlement Design Competition 2025 organized by NASA Ames Research Center, USA.

Sugarcane Growers' Protest Temporarily Postponed

AFZALPUR

Former minister Mallikayya Guttedar spoke at the meeting of the Swabhimani Sugarcane Growers' United Struggle Committee held at the Tourist Bhavan in Afzalpur town.

He said, "In the meeting held under the leadership of the district administration and District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge, the factory managements have given a written statement agreeing to pay ₹2,950 per ton of sugarcane, while the government will provide an additional ₹50."

Speaking at the committee meeting, he added, "Earlier, a price of ₹3,161 had been announced, but only ₹3,000 has now been finalized. For the remaining ₹161, farmers had decided to launch a dharna from November 20. However, since farmers have already begun harvesting sugarcane, the protest has been temporarily postponed with everyone's consent." He further stated, "As a representative of the government, Food Department Deputy Director Bhimaraya Masali had announced ₹3,161.94 per ton at the protest site in Afzalpur. But when factories insisted on fixing the price based on recovery rate, the District In-charge Minister held a meeting and ensured a uniform price across the district so that all farmers receive equal rates."

Sugarcane Growers' United Struggle Committee leader Shrimant Biradar said, "We do not agree with the price offered by the sugar factories. We will continue our struggle for the welfare of farmers."

COOPERATIVE WEEK CELEBRATIONS

72nd All India Cooperative Week Highlights Loan Repayment, Modernization, and Farmer Welfare Initiatives

BALKI

The cooperative sector has a 103-year history. If all members repay the loans they take on time, the cooperative society can function effectively, said Manjula S., Deputy Registrar of Bidar Cooperative Societies.

She spoke during the inauguration of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week at Donagapur, organized jointly by Karnataka State Cooperative Federation Ltd., Bangalore, District Cooperative Union, Bidar, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Donagapur, and the Cooperative Department, Bidar.

Manjula S. emphasized that while all activities in cooperative societies are computerized, no operational issues arise. Certificates were distributed to five PKPS societies recognized as model PACS societies by the Cooperative Department.

Dr. Neelambika, Assistant Registrar of Bidar Cooperative Societies, said that Cooperative Week is observed annually with a different theme each year, allowing participants to reflect on the topic. She added that the core purpose of cooperation is "everyone for everyone." The central government has also promoted several schemes under the Ministry of Cooperation, focusing on farmer welfare and prosperity.

Retired Agriculture Department Superintendent Rajshekhar Chidre gave the introductory speech. The program was presided over by Vidyavati Veershetti, President of Donagapur PKPS. Other attendees included Shivkumar Nagashetti Kalyani, President of Balki Town Cooperative Bank, Ashok Kashinath Biradar, Vice-President of Donagapur PKPS, Umadevi, Cooperative Development Officer, and Chandrakant from M.K.N. Subrahmanya Prabhu, Director of Naubad Sahar Training Center, delivered a lecture. Bandappa Karasanna, Director of Donagapur PKPS, conducted the proceedings, and H.R. Mallavva, Chief Executive Officer of the District Cooperative Union, offered felicitations. The event highlighted the significance of cooperation, timely loan repayment, and the modernization of cooperative societies to strengthen the sector.

QUICK READ

Gadag district marks national unity week ceremony

Gadag

Gadag District Administration celebrated National Unity Week with an oath-taking ceremony. Additional District Collector Dr. Durugesh KR led the event, administering the National Unity Pledge to officials and staff. The week, observed annually from November 19 to 25, promotes harmony and unity across the nation. Officers from various departments attended, including Urban Development Authority's Planning Director Basanagowda Kotura, DDLR R. Rudrannagowda, Youth Empowerment and Sports Officer Sharanu Gogeri, and Deputy Directors Padmavati and Nanda Hanabaratti from Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, respectively. The ceremony emphasized collective commitment toward national unity and public service in Gadag.

Arson Attack Leaves Nanjangud Residents Alarmed

Nanjangud

In Nanjangud town of Mysuru district, two cars parked outside homes were set on fire by miscreants using petrol. The vehicles belonged to Chalavadi Mahasabha District President Abhinagbhushan and resident Santosh. Neighbours quickly doused the flames, but the cars were completely burnt. Locals claim the attack is linked to ganja influence and expressed frustration over rising crime, including theft and extortion, in the area. Residents urged the police to strengthen patrols and catch the culprits. A complaint has been filed at Nanjangud Town Police Station, while community leaders demand immediate action and arrests to prevent further incidents.

DC Sridhara urges strict implementation of SC/ST Act

DC urged timely police investigations, strict action, and Women and Child Development support for victims needing legal and counseling assistance

GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C. N. Sridhara chaired the district-level SC/ST Atrocities Control Committee meeting at the District Administration Building on Thursday and stressed that preventing violence is the shared responsibility of every department and citizen. He said the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act must be implemented effectively and not remain only on paper. Police and administration should build confidence among victims rather than fear, he added.

The Social Welfare Department presented details on the number of cases registered in recent months, the status of investigations, charge sheets filed, and cases under trial. Reviewing delays in certain

cases, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the police to complete investigations within the legal timeframe and ensure strict action so that it sends a strong message. He also asked the Women and Child Development Department to support victims with legal help and counseling, especially those hesitant to file complaints.

Sridhara said people should be educated about the Act, complaint procedures, and available support systems. Schools and colleges must hold programs to promote constitutional values and discourage caste discrimination. The committee suggested displaying emergency contact numbers prominently in police stations, tahsildar offices, and social welfare offices.

He directed that violence control meetings be held in every taluk and asked social welfare officials to take action. He also said essential services such as housing, education, healthcare, and other facilities should reach eligible SC/ST beneficiaries promptly. The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to clear and clean the cemetery land at Hombala Naka and arrange proper lighting. Departments must ensure that no facility is misused.

Officials were warned to attend all committee meetings on time and show seriousness in their duties. Representatives and officers from various departments, including municipal, welfare, health, and labor departments, attended the meeting.

Collector reviews CCTV after newborn death at hospital

Dr. Danammanavar inspected the maternity ward, directing the Health Department to investigate, identify responsible parties, and submit a report to the Commission and High Court

HAVERI

District Collector Dr. Vijayamahantesh Danammanavar visited the Haveri District Hospital on Thursday to review CCTV footage linked to the death of a newborn in the Women and Children's Health Hospital. The incident has gained statewide attention following complaints from Mahila Yoga, the State High Court and the Child Protection Commission.

An investigation team was formed, and members began examining CCTV footage and hospital documents. The DC spent nearly an hour reviewing the footage and also spoke directly to the pregnant woman involved. He said the visit followed instructions from the Women's Commission and Child Rights Commission, which have sought a detailed report from the Health Department.

Dr. Danammanavar inspected the maternity ward and corridor where the incident occurred. He said that the Health Department has been directed to conduct an inquiry as per rules, identify those responsible and take necessary action. A report is expected by the end of the day, as the district administration must submit findings to both the Commission and the High Court.

The DC said the woman claimed she did not receive proper care during delivery but confirmed that her health condition is currently stable. He instructed officials to provide a clear timeline of when the woman arrived at the hospital and what occurred afterward. The inquiry team includes the Haveri Deputy Divisional Officer, Deputy Director of Women and Child Welfare, HIMS Principal and members of the Women's Comfort Center.

Incident Background: On Tuesday, 30-year-old Roopa Girish Karabannavara of Kakol village in Ranebennur taluk arrived at the district hospital around 9 am. Her relatives alleged that despite severe labor pain, Roopa was denied a bed and made to sit on the floor. They also claimed that hospital staff failed to guide her properly. When she later attempted to go to the toilet, Roopa delivered the baby on the way, and the newborn died from injuries. Relatives blamed the tragedy on negligence by doctors and nurses.

Mandya hosts sports event for disabled citizens

MANDYA

Mandya celebrated World Disabled Day with a special sports and cultural program at the city's indoor stadium. The event, organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, featured activities like musical chairs, shot put, discus throw, and ball throw. Disabled Senior Citizen Welfare Officer S.S. Komal Kumar urged participants to make full use of government schemes for their empowerment. The program was attended by District Youth Officer Shruti, international athlete Sabbanahalli Shivakumar, Assistant Director Omprakash, Swabhimani Foundation President Nandish, and several other officials and coordinators. Residents appreciated the event for promoting inclusion and engagement for disabled citizens.

District-Level walk to promote youth and health awareness

MANDYA

A district-level walk has been scheduled in Mandya on November 24 to promote youth engagement, health, and community spirit. The event will begin at 8 a.m. from B.G.S. Stadium in B.G. Nagar, Nagamangal taluk, and is being organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Taluk Administration Nagamangal, Town Panchayat Bellur, NSS units, and Adichunchanagiri University in collaboration with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel initiatives.

Swamiji Sri Satkirtinath of Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthan Math, Nagamangal branch, will grace the occasion with his divine presence. H.D. Kumaraswamy, Minister of Steel and Large Industries, Government of India, will also attend the event.

The program will be inaugurated by Agriculture and District In-charge Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy. Adichunchanagiri University Vice-Chancellor Dr. S.N. Sridhar will preside over the function. Other dignitaries expected include District Commissioner Dr. Kumar, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini, District Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi, and Additional District Commissioner B.C. Sivanandamurthy.

Dakshina Kannada sees strong response to govt guarantees

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada district has recorded an impressive response to the state's five guarantee schemes, with nearly 95% of residents benefiting, said Bharat Mundodi, Chairman of the District Guarantee Implementation Authority. Speaking at a publicity campaign in Sullia's Gandhinagar, he noted that the registration process has been smooth, with camps across the district enabling widespread enrolment. Popular initiatives like Shakti free bus travel for women, Grihalakshmi monthly assistance and Grihajyoti free electricity have seen extensive use.

Sullia Tahsildar Manjula and Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Rajanna also addressed the gathering.

The Ulaibettu Gram Panchayat will hold its third-phase Gram Sabha on November 25 at Falguni Community Hall. An information workshop for Yuvanidhi beneficiaries is scheduled for November 27, requiring online registration by November 26.

A seminar and screening on Reverend Ferdinand Kittel will be held on November 22 at Tulu Bhavan.

MIMS sets sights on 11,000 blood units this year

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar chaired a progress review meeting with MIMS officials on Thursday, emphasizing the need to organize more blood donation camps and collect a total of 11,000 blood units this year.

Dr. Kumar noted that 720 units were collected in August alone, and the hospital maintains an average stock of 500 blood units daily. "Currently, there is no shortage in the blood bank. The Red Cross is doing an excellent job organizing camps," he said. He urged students and the public to be informed and encouraged to participate in blood donation drives.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed hygiene at the health center, insisting that cleanliness be a top priority. He instructed that no one should stay on footpaths, proper dustbins be installed, and handwashing facilities maintained for those staying at the center. The health center has generated an income of ₹1.69 lakh so far, which is used for maintenance.

Dr. Kumar highlighted the ongoing setup of a new cancer center, expected to be ready within 3–4 months, and asked for speedy completion to benefit patients. He also directed that separate queues for men, women, and senior citizens be maintained in all OPDs and called for timely MRI scans, efficient doctor attendance, and quality water supply for patients.

Addressing other facilities, he suggested relocating the Indira Canteen to MIMS for better public access and warned against overcharging at the hospital parking, instructing officials to enforce the correct fees. The meeting was attended by Muda Commissioner Krishna Kumar, MIMS Director P.E. Narasimha Swamy, Superintendent Shivakumar, Red Cross President Meera Shivalingaiah, and other senior officials.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Meena Nagaraj announced a tourist ban at key sites from December 1, 6 a.m. to December 5, 6 a.m.

Tourists barred from Chikkamagaluru Hills temporarily

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chikkamagaluru district administration has announced a temporary ban on tourists visiting hill stations in the Chandradrona range from December 1 to 5 due to the annual Datta Jayanti celebrations atop Bababudangiri.

The event, organised by Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad, is expected to attract thousands of devotees from across Karnataka. Authorities have imposed the restrictions to ensure safety, as heavy rains have caused potholes and occasional landslides on the roads connecting Kaimara to the hill stations.

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Meena Nagaraj clarified that the ban applies to tourists visiting popular spots including Mullayanagiri, Seethalayyanaigir, Sri Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Swamy Dargah, Galikere, and Manikya Dhara. The restriction will be in effect from 6 a.m. on December 1 to 6 a.m. on December 5.

However, local residents and visitors who have booked homestays or resorts well in advance are exempted and will be allowed to access the hill stations. Officials urged all visitors to cooperate and follow safety measures during the busy festival days.

The administration has also put in place additional arrangements to handle large crowds and prevent accidents. Authorities hope the temporary ban will ensure smooth celebrations without any untoward incidents.

The decision highlights the district's focus on balancing religious festivities with public safety, especially in hilly areas prone to road damage during monsoon and winter months.

Man sentenced to 20 years jail for minor's assault

SHIVAMOGGA

A Shivamogga court has sentenced a 30-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for the sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl in Bhadravati. The incident, which shocked the local community, dates back to 2022 when the accused lured the minor and committed the crime. Circle Inspector Raghavendra Kandike investigated the case thoroughly and submitted a detailed charge sheet to the FTSC-1 court. After hearing the arguments, Judge Ninganagouda Patil ruled in favor of the prosecution, led by Sridhar, handing down a tough 20-year sentence and imposing a fine of ₹65,000 on the criminal.

As part of the judgment, the government has also been directed to compensate the survivor with ₹4.5 lakh, a gesture appreciated by child rights groups for supporting recovery and rehabilitation. The prosecution stressed the importance of speedy justice and strict punishment for such offenses to protect children and deter future crimes.

In a separate but similar case, the Mysore POCSO special court sentenced another culprit to 20 years' imprisonment and a fine for luring and marrying a minor girl before sexually assaulting her repeatedly. The accused, a toy seller who was already married, deceived the PUC student and committed the crime. Judge Anand P. Hogade delivered a decisive verdict under the POCSO Act, strengthening the judiciary's stand against crimes targeting minors. The survivor in the case will receive government support for her well-being.

Courts across Karnataka are sending out a strong message: justice will be swift and ruthless for those preying on children.

SAFE CELEBRATION

Dr. Itnal inspects Anjanadri ahead of Hanumamala fest

KOPPAL

District Collector Dr. Suresh B. Itnal said that full arrangements will be made to ensure that devotees attending the Hanumamala program at Anjanadri on December 2 and 3 do not face any trouble. He spoke to reporters on Thursday after inspecting the preparation works along with senior officials.

As a precaution, the Collector, along with the District Superintendent of Police, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer and other officers, reviewed all arrangements onsite. He instructed officials to complete parking arrangements, barricades, lighting, drinking water, CCTV installation and prasad distribution facilities. He also directed them to make proper arrangements for Homa, Havan, decoration, live video streaming, bathing ghats, toilets and overall cleanliness.

Dr. Itnal said the District In-charge Minister has already held a meeting with MPs and MLAs, giving clear directions for smooth conduct of the event. He said that 1.5 to 2 lakh devotees are expected this year, and all preparations will be completed by November 30 so that visitors face no inconvenience.

District Superintendent of Police Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi said that parking areas have been inspected and around 25 checkposts will be set up. CCTV cameras will be installed in parking and dining areas, and 1,500 police personnel will be deployed. He assured that the police department will ensure complete security and crowd management throughout the event.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi said that instructions have been given to maintain drinking water and sanitation facilities so that people arriving from different places have no difficulty.

During the inspection, the Collector also reviewed barricades, control room arrangements, medical team locations and prasad distribution points at Vedapatha School. He asked the Public Works Department to install barricades around the top of Anjanadri Hill. Senior district and taluk officers from various departments were present during the visit.

Power seen as opportunity, not permanence: Hebbalkar

Hebbalkar emphasized combating malnutrition, promoting Anganwadi programs, preventing child marriage, and rewarding child-marriage-free GPs

BENGALURU

Power is not permanent but an opportunity to serve, said Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar during the Karnataka State Child Rights Parliament–2025. She encouraged children to set clear goals and work hard to reach the top in whichever field they choose. Fulfilling the dreams of parents and teachers should guide their journey, she said.

The minister assured that the government is committed to protecting every child's rights and urged students to grow into educated, secular and constitution-minded citizens. Sharing a personal memory, she said she did not even know her caste until class seven, and a powerful speech she heard in childhood had shaped her life.

Mobile phones are harmful, she warned, calling them a "social scourge" for children. Parents must monitor usage at home, and the more children stay away from mobile phones, the better their growth will be, she said.

Hebbalkar highlighted the government's fight against malnutrition, recalling key initiatives such as the midday meal scheme started in 1999 and the inclusion of eggs and milk in 2013. Today, 35 lakh children study in Anganwadi centres across Karnataka. She said strict action will be taken to prevent child marriage, and even engagement before 18 will attract punishment. Gram panchayats free from child marriage will receive ₹25,000 rewards.

For better functioning of Anganwadis, workers have been exempted from election duties. Karnataka has 70,000 centres, with 50,000 operating in their own buildings. She noted that ₹200 crore has been allocated for Anganwadi infrastructure in the last two-and-a-half years.

The minister said child protection requires cooperation from all departments—Education, Revenue, Health and Home. Around 120 students from four divisions participated in the two-hour interaction marking World Children's Day.

Child Protection Commission Chairman Shashidhar S. Kosumbe, trustee Katyayini Chamaraj, and several officials were present.

Shivamurthy Swamiji POCSO trial concludes; verdict on Nov 26

CHITRADURGA

The court has finished hearing the first POCSO case filed against Murughashree, and the final verdict will be announced on November 26. The case relates to serious allegations against Shivamurthy Swamiji of Murughashree Math, who has been accused of sexually abusing minor girls studying in a residential school run by the Math.

The Second Additional District and Sessions Court in Chitradurga completed all arguments and stated that the order will be delivered on the scheduled date. Special Government Prosecutor H. R. Jagadish said the prosecution presented all evidence and arguments supporting the victims, and the defense also completed its side. He added that the team is confident about the outcome, as the case has reached its final stage after a long legal process.

There are two POCSO cases registered against Sharan. The current case has reached its closing stage, while the second one is ongoing in the High Court. Prosecutor Jagadish said the first case has been handled thoroughly, and if the court proves the charges, the accused may face a minimum sentence of 20 years.

When asked whether the verdict could be postponed, he said the chances are low because the Supreme Court has instructed that such trials must be completed within six months.

Two POCSO cases are registered against Sharan; the first is nearing closure with a possible 20-year minimum sentence, while the second continues in the High Court

Even though the case has crossed that period and faced two earlier delays, he believes the November 26 date is likely to remain unchanged.

The case began after two girls from the residential school filed a complaint at Nazarbad Police Station in Mysuru on August 26, 2022. The case was later moved to Chitradurga Rural Police Station, and the accused were arrested on September 1, 2022.

QUICK READ

Power cut announced in Chikkaballapura

Chikkaballapura

Chikkaballapur district has issued public notice regarding a scheduled power outage. A planned electricity cut will occur today, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., due to work at the 220/66 kV GIS power receiving station in the industrial area. Engineers will pull the 220 kV power line conductor, affecting supply from several 11 kV feeders, including F-2 Vantur, F-3 Ramadevaragudi, F-4 Ketenahalli, F-8 Shettiwarahalli, and F-13 S Gollahalli. Villages such as Baiyappanahalli, Machaganahalli, Inaminchanahalli, and Doddathammanahalli will experience interruptions.

Chitradurga Court to auction confiscated vehicles

Chitradurga

The 2nd Additional Civil Judge and JMFC court in Chitradurga will hold a public auction of eight government-confiscated motor vehicles on November 26 at 10:30 am. The vehicles include models like Hero Honda Splendor Plus, LML Freedom, Bajaj Max, and Gujarat Narmada vehicles. Additionally, 17 keypad mobiles and UPS charger lights will be auctioned. Interested buyers can participate following the rules outlined in the court notice. The auction aims to dispose of items seized in various cases, giving the public an opportunity to purchase them legally through the official court process.

Commissioner issues stray dog control order

Gauribidanur

The Gauribidanur Municipal Commissioner has issued strict instructions to control stray dogs in public and private institutions, following the Supreme Court's suo motu writ petition No. 5/2025. Educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands, and railway stations must check for stray dogs on their premises, report their numbers, and prevent entry. Each institution is required to appoint a nodal officer to assist municipal staff in safely relocating dogs and supervising preventive measures. Institutions will bear relocation costs if dogs return due to negligence, and legal action will be taken against any non-compliance with the Supreme Court's order.

Chitradurga wins National Award for water conservation

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga district has been honoured with the prestigious "Jala Sanchay – Jana Bhagidhari" (GSJB) National Award for its outstanding water conservation initiatives under the Zilla Panchayat. The award, presented by the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, recognises the district's exemplary efforts in groundwater augmentation and sustainable water management.

The award ceremony was held in New Delhi in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu and Minister of State for Jal Shakti V. Somanna. The accolade was received by Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash from Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil. Along with the recognition, the district received a cash prize of ₹25 lakh.

Chitradurga's success is attributed to a series of measures focusing on rainwater harvesting, ditching, lake dredging, embankment strengthening, canal development, check dams, and ingu gundi construction. Under the NREGA scheme, 7,815 projects were implemented across 1,063 villages during 2024–25, significantly improving groundwater levels and ensuring sustainable water availability for agriculture and daily use.

The district administration highlighted the importance of community participation in the campaign, engaging local residents actively in water conservation works. Officials noted that prioritising water protection and resource management has made a lasting impact on the region's ecology and agricultural productivity.

The national recognition not only brings prestige to Chitradurga but also sets an example for other districts to follow in promoting participatory water management and sustainable resource practices.

K'taka Govt Announces 50% Rebate on Pending Traffic Fines

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has announced a major one-time rebate scheme, offering a 50% discount on pending fines issued by both the Police Department through e-challans and the Transport Department for violations recorded between 1991-92 and 2019-20. The concession will be available for a limited period from November 21 to December 12, 2025, according to an official order issued on Wednesday.

The decision follows recommendations from the Commissioner of Transport and Road Safety, who sought a comprehensive relief measure to help vehicle owners clear long-pending dues accumulated over decades. Similar rebate windows were previously offered in 2023 and earlier this year, all of which saw significant public response.

Under the new order, individuals with pending cases under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules—whether recorded in police e-challans or transport department records—can settle their dues by paying only half of the fine amount. The scheme applies strictly to cases pending within the specified period and must be completed within the announced timeline.

Officials noted that the initiative aims to ease the burden on citizens, clear backlog cases, and streamline enforcement databases. The Finance Department has already approved the proposal, paving the way for immediate implementation.

Vehicle owners have been urged to make use of the concession window before it closes. Payments can be made through the designated e-challan system or at authorised transport offices across the state.

The government has directed senior officials—including the Police Department, Transport Commissioner, and Karnataka State Legal Services Authority—to ensure smooth execution of the scheme and wide public awareness.

High-Tech Silk Cocoon Market, Water-Filling Project for 164 Tanks

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The District Administration and Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapur, will jointly organize a major public programme titled "Inauguration of the High-Tech Silk Cocoon Market, Water-Filling Project for 164 Tanks under H.N. Valley Phase-3, and Various Development Works, along with Distribution of Welfare Benefits to Beneficiaries."

The event will be held on November 24 at 11:00 AM in Hanumanthapura village, Kasaba Hobli of Shidlaghatta Taluk.

The programme will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah. Union Ministers Jagat Prakash Nadda, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Manohar Lal Khattar; Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar; Union Ministers of State V. Somanna and others will participate. Minister for Higher Education and District In-charge Minister of Chikkaballapur, Dr. M.C. Sudhakar. Will be special Guests:

State Ministers H.K. Patil, K.H. Muniyappa, Ramalinga Reddy, K.J. George, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Satish Jarkiholi, Krishna Byre Gowda, Priyank Kharge, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Eshwar Khandre, N. Cheluvarayaswamy, S.S. Mallikarjun, Santosh Lad, Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, K. Venkatesh, Shivraj Tangadagi, Rahim Khan, Suresh B.S., Laxmi R. Hebbalkar, Mankal Vaidya, Madhu Bangarappa, N.S. Boseraju, and others.

Chess festival inspires rural children's bright future

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The district-level Chess Festival for rural children was inaugurated at Gandhi Bhavan by Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat, who highlighted how chess improves thinking power, memory, focus and analytical ability. He said clever indoor games like chess and carrom help children develop both mentally and emotionally, and serve as a healthier alternative to excessive mobile use.

Dr. Bhat reminded children that sports should go beyond kho-kho, kabaddi and volleyball, encouraging them to explore indoor games that strengthen the mind. He urged students to make use of libraries in gram panchayats and build regular reading habits. The festival, launched on November 14 to mark Children's Day, was introduced as a unique initiative of Chikkaballapura district to help children learn about the benefits of computers and internet-based thinking through skill games.

A total of 5,504 rural children enthusiastically participated. Winners progressed from village to taluk and then to district level, with about ₹21 lakh spent on prizes and certificates. Dr. Bhat said the district aims to send top performers to state and national competitions, and plans are underway to include more smart games in future editions. He stressed the need for expert training and a supportive environment to help interested students grow.

Zilla Panchayat Assistant Secretary Muniraju said children aged 6 to 14 took part, and prizes were given at each stage: ₹3,000, ₹2,000 and ₹1,000 at village level; ₹5,000, ₹3,000 and ₹2,000 at taluk level; and ₹10,000, ₹7,500 and ₹5,000 at district level, along with books and certificates.

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NAME CHANGE

I, **SHANKAR M**, Resident of Apoorva Meadows Apartment No.113, Agrahara Road, Near Ramaiah Complex, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to **SHANKARAIAH MUNIVENKATAPPA**, Vide Affidavit Dated 20.11.2025 before Notary R. BASAVARAJA. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, PREETI DUBEY D/O HARI SHARAN TRIPATHI and Ex - Wife of NIKHIL DUBEY residing at No 302 3rd Floor Sania Retreat, 3rd Cross Hanumanthappa Layout, Bangalore North, R T Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560030, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree M C No. 2216/2018 dated 08-04-2019, Further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRIETY for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I PRAMOD SATHYANARAYANA alias PRAMOD S S/O SATYANARAYANA L, R/O 107 3B 3rd floor, Road No. 4, Near Ganesha Temple, Defence Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAMOD S NARAYAN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SARASWATI W/O KALLAPPA, R/O Gouri Hola, Sindhavalam, Hagaribommanahalli, Bellary, Karnataka- 583117, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAKSHMI.

Office of Deputy Commissioner, Chickaballapur District, Chickballapur
(District Urban Development Cell)
E-Mail :- ka.chikkaballapur.dudc@gmail.com, Ph:08156-277005
NO.DUDC/AMN-4/CR//105/2025-26 D:14.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Chikkaballapur invites tenders from the eligible tenderers, detailed in the table below. **Name of Work: (1)** Construction of Town Municipal Council office Building, Bagepalli (DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT49835/Call-2) (Short term Tender) **Amt put to tender: Rs.** 216.30 **in Laks, E.M.D: Rs.** 3.24 **in Laks, Period of completion:** 3 months. **Name of Work: (2)** Providing and fixing of street light from 1) Townhall circle via krishna talkies to sadu mata circle 2) Kandavara bagilu to CC circle, via girls school to town hall 3) District library to district court and 4) BB road KEB quarters circle via KSRTC depo to Mustor road in Chikkaballapura CMC unde amruth nagarothana-4 in chikkaballapura district **(DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT49057/Call-2)**(Short term Tender). **Amt put to tender: Rs.** 197.16 **in Laks, E.M.D: Rs.** 2.96 **in Laks, Period of completion:** 3 months. **Name of Work: (3)** Purchase and Supply of Laptops For scheduled caste, scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and specially abled degree students in Chintamani CMC Under Amruth Nagorathana Phase-4 (DMA/2025-26/IND5600) **Amt put to tender:Rs.** 70.96 **in Laks, E.M.D: Rs.** 1.39 **in Laks, Period of completion:** 3 months. **Name of Work: (4)** Supply of Laptops For scheduled caste, scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes students in Gauribidanur CMC Under Amruth Nagorathana Phase-4(BE and MBBS) (DMA/2025-26/IND5598). **Amt put to tender: Rs.** 76.50 **in Laks, E.M.D: Rs.** 1.51**in Laks, Period of completion:** 3 months. **Name of Work: (5)** Purchase and Supply of Laptops For scheduled caste, scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes students in Sidlaghatta CMC Under Amruth Nagorathana Phase-4 (DMA/2025-26/IND 5599) **Amt put to tender: Rs.** 93.95 **in Laks, E.M.D: Rs.** 1.85 **in Laks, Period of completion:** 3 months. **Name of Work: (6)** Purchase and Supply of Laptops For scheduled caste, scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and Specially Abled students in Bagepalli CMC Under Amruth Nagorathana Phase-4 (DMA/2025-26/IND5591) **Amt put to tender: Rs.** 30.00 **in Laks, E.M.D: Rs.** 0.59**in Laks, Period of completion:** 3 months. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and calendar of events as below. **(1)** Pre-bid meeting (Venue-DUDC office) For Sl No 1,2 Only: **19.11.2025, 5:30 PM. (2)** Pre-bid meeting (Venue-DUDC office) For Sl No 3, 4,5,6 Only**: 20.11.2025, 5:30 PM. (3)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **29.11.2025, 5:30 PM. (4)** Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: **02.12.2025, 11:00 AM. (5)** Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: **06.12.2025, 11:00 AM. (1)**Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **(2)** Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, DUDC, FA-07, DC office complex, Chikkaballapur during working hours. Any change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in e-procurement portal only. No Paper notification will be given.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Chickballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:269/KSMCA/2025-26

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ
DMA/WORK INDENT No. 51343/25-26/ EE1 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.11.2025
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ E-PROCUREMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ವಿ.ನಂ.48 ಕಂಕನಾಡಿ ವೆಲೆನ್ಸಿಯಾ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಪಂಪ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಪಡೀಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಫುಟ್‌ಪಾತ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರೀಮಿಯಂ ಎಫ್.ಎ.ಆರ್ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜುಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 399.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು WORK INDENT NO.51343 ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.12.2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1121/25-26 dt: 20.11.2025

Office of The City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
No.: CCC.ADM-II.42/2025/Consumable Articles/2025-26 Date: 12.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The City Civil Court, Bengaluru invites e-bidding proposals (quotations) through the e-procurement website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live)** from interested local consumables and permanent article supply vendors (having business office in Bengaluru city only) for the supply of consumable and permanent articles for the following service contract.

Tender No.: **ADM-II.42/2025 (Consumables)** Dated: **06.11.2025** Tender No. (as issued by KPPP): **HCK/2025-26/IND0063** Dated: **13.11.2025.** Tender Name / Services sought for: **Procurement of consumables, housekeeping and other items/articles.** Tender Contract Period: Phased purchase for one-year period from the date of award of the tender. Estimated Approx. Total Tender Amount: **Rs. 20,00,000/-** EMD Amount: **Rs. 20,000/-** (1% of the estimated cost). Last date for clarification: **09.12.2025 at 1.00 PM.** Last date and time for submission of tender proposal: **18.12.2025 at 3.00 PM.** Date and time of opening of tender: Technical Bid - **19.12.2025 at 03.01 PM** (Financial Bid - upon approval of Technical Bid). Pre-bid meeting date: **09.12.2025 at 1.00 PM** (at the above office). For further details: Tel: 080-22939220 / Email: cccadm2@gmail.com

Sd/- Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
DIPR/DD-C.P/3894/KSMCA/2025-26

QUICK READ

Cheetah 'Mukhi' gives birth to 5 cubs

New Delhi
The Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday said the birth of five cubs to Mukhi, the first Indian-born female cheetah, is a major sign of the species adapting well to Indian habitats. He said the development shows strong health and long-term survival possibilities for cheetahs in the country. The minister added that Mukhi and her cubs are healthy. He called the event a historic moment for Project Cheetah, marking the first successful reproduction by an Indian-born cheetah.

SIT arrests Padmakumar in Sabarimala gold scam

Thiruvananthapuram
The Special Investigation Team on Thursday arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board president A. Padmakumar in the Sabarimala temple gold missing case. Police said he was questioned at the Crime Branch office before his arrest was recorded in the afternoon. The former CPI(M) MLA has been named an accused in the case linked to gold missing from the Sreekovil door frames. Sources said the arrest followed fresh evidence collected during the ongoing investigation.

6 youth die after SUV falls into gorge

Mumbai
Six young men were killed after their SUV plunged into a 400-feet gorge at Tamhini Ghat in Raigad district, police said on Thursday. The accident is believed to have occurred early Tuesday, but officials were informed only on Thursday morning. The crashed vehicle was later located using a drone camera. Police said the victims, aged 18 to 22, had left Pune in a Thar SUV late Monday for a picnic when the tragedy happened.

NIA produces 4 blast accused before court

New Delhi
The National Investigation Agency on Thursday produced four people arrested in the Red Fort blast case before a Delhi court. Those brought to court were Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai from Pulwama, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather from Anantnag, Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay from Shopian, and Dr Shaheen Saeed from Lucknow. They appeared before Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna.

PM Modi to highlight key issues of Global South

India prepares for an important G20 Summit focused on global challenges

NEW DELHI

India said on Thursday that it is looking forward to a productive G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part from November 21 to 23.

Officials said the meeting will help India continue its G20 priorities after its successful presidency in 2023. The G20 has become a major platform for global economic cooperation, bringing together countries representing over 85 per cent of global GDP and most of the world's population.

MEA Secretary for Economic Relations, Sudhakar Dalela, said the summit offers world leaders a chance to discuss key issues affecting the international community. This year's meeting is the fourth

consecutive summit held in the Global South and the first ever on African soil. It will also mark PM Modi's fourth official visit to South Africa.

Prime Minister Modi is expected to speak in all three main sessions of the summit. These sessions will focus on inclusive and sustainable growth, global trade, financing for development, debt challenges, disaster risk reduction, climate change, clean energy transitions, food systems, critical minerals, decent work and artificial intelligence.

South Africa, which holds the G20 presidency this year, has set four key priorities: stronger disaster response, debt sustainability for low-income nations, finance for fair energy transition and better use of critical minerals for inclusive development.

Officials noted that India's previous presidency created a Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, and South Africa has continued this effort. Discussions on food security have also progressed under South Africa's leadership.

During the summit, PM Modi will hold several bilateral meetings and join the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Meeting. The Johannesburg gathering will conclude a series of G20 presidencies led by emerging economies, helping bring more attention to issues facing the Global South.

India-Afghan ministers discuss trade, connectivity

The meet focuses on using Chabahar Port and expanding economic ties amid regional tensions.

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Afghanistan's Industry and Commerce Minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss ways to strengthen trade, connectivity, and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

During the meeting, Jaishankar said that India will continue to support the development and welfare of the Afghan people. He also shared on X that both sides spoke about improving trade links and building closer connections between the people of the two nations.

Minister Azizi arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday for an official visit along with a high-level Afghan delegation. The main aim of the visit is to make better use of the India-developed Chabahar Port in Iran and to encourage more investments between the two countries. The Ministry of External Affairs also posted a welcome message on X, noting that boosting bilateral trade and investment is the key focus of the visit.

The Afghan delegation visited the India International Trade Fair on Wednesday, where the minister toured stalls, including those by Afghan traders.

Vijay prepares to restart political tour with Salem rally

CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay is preparing to restart his public outreach after a brief pause, marking an important step for his party's political activities in Tamil Nadu. Party sources confirmed that his next major event is planned in Salem, where TVK has officially sought permission to hold a public rally on December 4.

Vijay had suspended all public events following the tragic incident on September 27, when 41 people died in a stampede-like situation during his rally near Karur. The incident led to a month-long pause in TVK's fieldwork and triggered an internal review of the party's

administrative and organisational systems. During this period, the party focused on improving its structure and strengthening coordination at various levels.

A special general body meeting was recently held in Mamallapuram, chaired by Vijay, to discuss reforms and streamline responsibilities in district units. With these internal processes stabilised, the TVK chief has now decided to return to public engagements.

The party's state executive committee has submitted a petition to Salem Municipal Police Commissioner Praveen Kumar Abhinapu seeking permission for the rally. They have proposed three possible venues — Fort Maidan, Bose Maidan, and the open grounds at Sheelanayakkanpatti — and have also requested adequate security arrangements.

Party insiders say Vijay will visit two districts weekly as part of his renewed campaign. He plans weekday events instead of only weekends, with the Salem meeting on a Thursday. If approved, it will be his first major address since the Karur tragedy, likely boosting TVK's momentum.

Kerala HC to hear plea into Veena case

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday agreed to hear a petition seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged "monthly payment" case involving Veena Vijayan, daughter of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The case will now be handled by a new bench led by Justice Anil Narendran, marking the beginning of a fresh legal phase.

The petition was filed by journalist MR Ajayan, who argues that the case must be investigated by the CBI.

He says documents from the Interim Settlement Board show financial dealings between Veena's IT company, Exalogic, and Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL).

Paddy moisture: TN CM slams Centre

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday strongly criticised the Union government for turning down the State's request to relax moisture norms for paddy procurement after continuous rains damaged harvested crops. The State had asked the Centre to temporarily raise the permissible moisture level from 17% to 22% so that farmers would not face financial loss when selling their rain-affected paddy. Calling the refusal "another betrayal of Tamil Nadu", Stalin questioned why the Union government — especially the Prime Minister — ignored a request made to protect farmers in distress. He asked why the Centre could not listen to the voices of farmers struggling after weeks of heavy rain.

He said in earlier years, the Centre had agreed to relax moisture norms.

Jay Dholakia sworn in as Nuapada MLA

BHUBANESWAR

Newly-elected Nuapada MLA Jay Dholakia took oath of office and secrecy on Thursday during a special ceremony held in the chamber of Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy.

The occasion was especially meaningful for Dholakia as he was sworn in on the birth anniversary of his late father, senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Rajendra Dholakia. His father's passing had led to the bypoll held on November 11.

After taking the oath, Dholakia expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the Speaker for allowing him to take the oath on such an emotional day. He said the moment was memorable and reaffirmed his commitment to work for the development of Nuapada district. He also thanked Chief Minister Majhi on behalf of the people of Nuapada for taking responsibility for the district's progress.

Dholakia said the victory in the November 14 by-election belonged not only to him but also to the people of Nuapada,

The BJP captured the Nuapada seat from the BJD, raising its tally to 79 in the 147-member Odisha Assembly. Dholakia won convincingly with 1,23,869 votes, defeating Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi by a large margin of 83,748 votes.

his father Rajendra Dholakia, and BJP workers at all levels. Odisha BJP President Manmohan Samal also expressed confidence that Dholakia would fulfill his development promises made during the campaign.

In the bypoll, BJP candidate Dholakia won convincingly with 1,23,869 votes, defeating Congress candidate Ghasiram Majhi by a large margin of 83,748 votes. This was the highest winning margin among all eight by-elections held along with the Bihar Assembly elections. BJD candidate Snehangini Chhuria came third with 38,408 votes.

The BJP captured the Nuapada seat from the BJD, raising its total to 79 members in the 147-member Odisha Assembly. Meanwhile, both the BJD and Congress accused the ruling BJP of violating the Model Code of Conduct and misusing government machinery during the bypoll.

Reddy calls for nationwide rollout of Telangana model free rice scheme

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday urged the Central government to introduce a free fine rice distribution scheme across India, similar to the programme in Telangana.

He shared this proposal during a meeting with Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister explained that Telangana is the only state that distributes fine rice free of cost through Fair Price Shops. He told the Union Minister that welfare programmes work best when people receive the type of rice they prefer and commonly consume.

Reddy suggested that the Centre consider supplying 'Sanna Biyyam' (fine rice) nationwide and, if needed, conduct a study before making decisions. Senior officials, including Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary Seshadri,

and Civil Supplies Principal Secretary Stephen Raveendra attended the meeting.

The free rice scheme, launched in March this year, provides six kilograms of fine rice every month to each ration card holder in Telangana. According to the state government, 3.10 crore people—about 85 percent of the population—are benefiting from the initiative.

In another meeting, Analog AI CEO and technologist Alex Kipman met Chief Minister Reddy. Kipman, known for developing Microsoft Kinect and HoloLens, discussed possible collaborations using next-generation 'Physical Intelligence' systems. These technologies could support Telangana's Future City, AI City and Musi Riverfront projects.

Analog AI also expressed interest in addressing issues such as traffic congestion, urban flooding and climate-related challenges in Hyderabad using advanced technology. Chief Minister Reddy invited Kipman to attend the upcoming Telangana Rising Global Summit on December 8 and 9. Kipman welcomed the invitation with appreciation.

TOTAL CLEANLINESS

Nation launches campaign to strengthen rural sanitation

NEW DELHI

The Jal Shakti Ministry has started a nationwide campaign to increase awareness on rural toilet usage and overall cleanliness in villages.

The campaign, titled 'Hamara Shauchalaya, Hamara Bhavishya', was launched to mark World Toilet Day 2025 on November 19 and will continue until December 10, which is observed as Human Rights Day.

According to the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the initiative aims to bring communities together to improve sanitation habits and strengthen existing facilities.

As part of the campaign, states and union territories have been asked to involve well-known local personalities, Padma awardees, retired defence personnel, school children, and youth groups like NSS, NYKS and NCC.

Their role will be to motivate villagers to continue using toilets regularly and to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings. The ministry believes that the participation of respected community members will help spread the message more effectively.

A major objective of the campaign is to repair and improve the functionality of Community Sanitary Complexes and household toilets. It also focuses on reviewing and strengthening operation and maintenance systems for community toilets. Villages are being encouraged to beautify their sanitation facilities and ensure they remain clean and usable throughout the year.

The campaign stresses the need for good sanitation and hygiene for better health and community welfare. It promotes safe faecal waste handling and climate-resilient practices. Gram Panchayats, Block offices and District officials have been given key duties. The ministry also suggested honouring sanitation workers and issuing toilet sanction letters. With over 11 crore rural toilets built since 2014, the drive now focuses on sustaining cleanliness and usage.

RSS chief Bhagwat begins 3-day Manipur visit

IMPHAL

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat arrived in Manipur on Thursday for a three-day visit as part of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's centenary celebrations. This is his first visit to the state since ethnic violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in May 2023. Bhagwat received a warm welcome at Imphal airport after completing a four-day tour of Assam.

Soon after landing, he proceeded to the RSS centre, Bhaskara Prabha, in Kongjeng Leikai, Imphal East. According to state RSS functionaries, Bhagwat will hold several closed-door meetings with organisational workers during his stay from November 20 to 22. He is also scheduled to interact with entrepreneurs, tribal representatives, civil society groups from both the hills and the valley, youth leaders and other prominent citizens.

QUICK READ

Voter roll revision poorly planned: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is being carried out in an unplanned and coercive way. She said the process has become alarming due to poor training, unclear documentation rules and the difficulty BLOs face in meeting voters. Banerjee also cited the suicide of an anganwadi worker under reported work pressure. She urged the Election Commission to take urgent corrective steps.

Aligarh makes biometric attendance strict for madrasas

Aligarh

The Aligarh district administration has made biometric attendance compulsory for all madrasa teachers, officials said on Thursday. District Magistrate Sanjiv Ranjan said the move follows instructions from the Uttar Pradesh government. He added that salaries will now be paid only on the basis of biometric attendance records. Responding to questions, Ranjan also said the process of identifying illegal madrasas in the district is currently underway as part of ongoing checks.

'Enumeration form distribution nears completion'

New Delhi

The Election Commission said on Thursday that nearly all voters have received enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in nine states and three Union Territories. Around 50.40 crore of the 50.97 crore electors have been issued forms, covering 98.89 percent. Phase II of the SIR, which began on November 4, will continue until December 4. The exercise covers states and UTs including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Puducherry, which will face elections in 2026.

Bihar set for new phase of growth: 'Comeback King'

'I, Nitish Kumar...is a symbol of the unwavering faith of crores of Biharis'

Continued from page 1

Prior to taking the oath as the Chief Minister on Thursday, JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar said he would take oath soon, pledging that "Bihar will embark on a new journey of development".

In an X post, Kumar said, "I, Nitish Kumar, swear by God... This sentence is a symbol of the unwavering faith and self-confidence of crores of Biharis. Today, from the historic Gandhi Maidan in Patna, this voice will echo once again, and Bihar will embark on a new journey of development."

The Gandhi Maidan itself has a history of witnessing Nitish Kumar's oath-taking ceremonies in 2005, 2010, and 2015. It is at this venue that Jayaprakash Narayan called for "total revolution" during his yet another historic speech in 1974.

Kumar also extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all Biharis on the occasion. "On this historic oath-taking occasion, heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all Biharis," his X post read.

Janata Dal (United) celebrated the occasion by sharing

a collage of Nitish Kumar's past oath-takings on X, adding "History is about to be made in Bihar. Honorable Nitish Kumar ji will take the oath for the post of Chief Minister, a symbol of Bihar's development and trust. Bihar will write another new chapter of development; this moment will be a moment of pride for all Biharis. Let us all witness this historic moment".

The Bihar assembly polls were held in two phases on November 6 and 11, registering a historic 67.13% voter turnout, the highest since 1951, with women voters (71.6%) outpacing men (62.8%).

My government will work to put Bihar first and Biharis first with Prime Minister Modi's vision and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's experience.

—Chirag Paswan, Union Minister and LJP(RV)

November 20 will be remembered as a "Red-Letter Day in Bihar's history". It has been etched in history. Nitish Kumar ji is serving as Chief Minister for the tenth time. He, along with the BJP, has removed the stain of 'Jungle Raj' that had tarnished Bihar over the past 20 years.

—Pratul Shahdeo, BJP Bihar spokesperson

NITISH JOINS TOP 10 CLUB

As the country's political landscape turns another page, Nitish Kumar (74) has joined the ranks of India's 10 longest-serving chief ministers, a list dominated for decades by stalwarts like Pawan Kumar Chamling of Sikkim and Naveen Patnaik of Odisha.

Sikkim Pawan Kumar Chamling (Over 25 years) Dec 12, 1994 - May 26, 2019.

Odisha Naveen Patnaik (Over 24 yrs) March 5, 2000 - June 11, 2024.

West Bengal: Jyoti Basu (Over 23 years) June 21, 1977 - November 5, 2000.

Arunachal Gegong Apang (Over 22 years) 1980-1999; 2003-2007.

Mizoram Lal Thanhawla (Over 22 yrs) May 5, 1984 - Aug 21, 1986; Jan 24, 1989 - Dec 3, 1998; Dec 11, 2008- Dec 15, 2018.

Himachal Pradesh: Virbhadra Singh (Over 21 years) 1983-1990; 1993-1998; 2003-2007; 2012-2017.

Tripura Manik Sarkar (Over 19 years) March 11, 1998 - March 9, 2018

Bihar Nitish Kumar (About 19 years) 2000; 2005-2014;, and Feb 22, 2015, to November 19, 2025.

Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi (Over 18 yrs) 1969-1976; 1989-1991; 1996-2001; 2006-2011.

Punjab: Parkash Singh Badal (Over 18 years) 1970-1971; 1977-1980; 1997-2002; 2007-2017.

We congratulate Nitish Kumar ji and hope that he doesn't suffer any 'dhoka', and he is able to complete his term.

—Pawan Khera, Congress leader

NCPCR uses AI tools to fight online child abuse

KOHIMA

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has started using artificial intelligence to detect and stop online child sexual abuse material, marking a major step in strengthening digital protection for children, a senior official said.

NCPCR consultant K. P. J. Gerald said the use of AI is an important move in a fast-changing digital world where new threats continue to emerge.

Speaking at a state-level conference on child-rights laws, organised with Nagaland's School Education Department, Gerald said every child-rights case represents a real child's struggle and must be handled with care. He urged officials, teachers, parents and the public to work together to ensure proper enforcement of child-protection laws. Gerald said the Commission, set up in 2007 under the CPCR Act, works to ensure that national policies match constitutional values and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UK Min begins India visit to advance key trade deal

NEW DELHI

The three-day visit underlines the deepening bilateral cooperation and building momentum for the new trade deals.

UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific Seema Malhotra began her first official visit to India on Thursday, aiming to advance the recently signed UK-India Free Trade Agreement and strengthen cooperation between both countries. The three-day visit underlines the deepening bilateral cooperation.

Malhotra's trip focuses on building momentum for the new trade deal, which is expected to boost the UK's GDP by 4.8 billion pounds each year, increase wages by 2.2 billion pounds, and raise bilateral trade by nearly 25.5 billion pounds. During the visit, she will meet British companies operating in Chennai and Bengaluru, including Tesco, Revolut, and BT, to understand how the trade agreement is supporting their growth and investment plans.

Speaking ahead of the visit, Malhotra, who is of Indian origin, said she was pleased to travel to India soon after her appointment. She said the UK-India Vision 2035 places the trade agreement at the centre of a long-term partnership that aims to create jobs, boost innovation, and encourage investment in both nations.

In Bengaluru, she will announce the revival of the British Council's Women in STEM Scholarship programme in South Asia after a one-year pause. The fully funded awards, each worth at least £40,000, will support one-year master's programmes at top UK universities, with ten slots reserved for South Asia for 2026–27 and applications opening in January. She will also meet ministers in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to discuss advanced manufacturing, green technology, and skills development. In Chennai, she will launch phase two of the UK's anti-visa fraud campaign, including outreach in high-risk areas and a Tamil-language WhatsApp chatbot.

India leads regional security talks in Delhi

NEW DELHI

The 7th CSC NSA meet brings together key Indian Ocean countries to strengthen cooperation on maritime security, terrorism, cyber threats and other shared regional challenges.

India on Thursday hosted the Seventh National Security Adviser–level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) in New Delhi, bringing together top security officials from Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Seychelles joined as an Observer, while Malaysia attended for the first time as a Guest. The meeting, chaired by India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, aimed to strengthen regional cooperation and review progress made across the Conclave's main security areas.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the members agreed to expand joint work under the CSC's five core pillars. These include maritime safety and security, counterterrorism and tackling radicalisation, combating trafficking and organised crime, improving cybersecurity and protecting key infrastructure, and enhancing cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The members also welcomed Seychelles' decision to become a full member of the group.

During the meeting, the first Secretary General of the CSC, appointed by India, presented a detailed review of the progress made since the sixth NSA-level meeting held in Mauritius in December 2023. He highlighted joint activities, training efforts and capacity-building measures carried out under each security pillar over the past year.

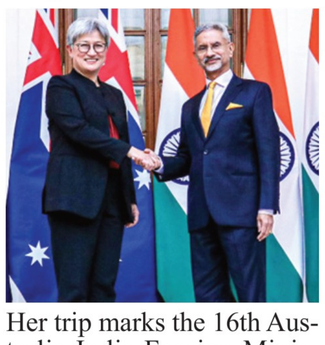
Officials discussed new ways to strengthen cooperation through joint training, information-sharing and fresh regional initiatives to address growing security challenges in the Indian Ocean. They stressed that stronger partnerships were vital for maritime safety, counterterrorism, cyber preparedness and disaster response. Delegations were led by senior security officials from Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with Seychelles represented by its Defence Forces chief and Malaysia by a senior National Security Council official.

Jaishankar-Wong moots to deepen ties

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong in New Delhi on Thursday and welcomed her for a fresh round of talks aimed at strengthening ties between the two countries. Jaishankar, in a message on X, greeted her warmly and said he looked forward to their discussions.

Wong, who arrived in Delhi on Wednesday evening, began her visit with a tour of Humayun's Tomb and viewed the Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters exhibition at the site's museum.



Her trip marks the 16th Australia-India Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue and her 26th meeting with Jaishankar, reflecting the growing engagement between the two sides.

During her stay, the ministers are expected to discuss cooperation in cyber and strategic technology, trade, maritime security, defence, sports, and people-to-people exchanges. Wong said ahead of her visit that Australia and India "have never been closer," stressing that the partnership is vital in an increasingly competitive world.

She added that the visit builds on the momentum created by recent high-level meetings and shows the Albanese government's push to deepen partnerships and increase resilience. Wong said cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership highlights their shared vision for a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific region.

B'desh seeks stronger CSC ties, pushes inclusive regional future

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh has restated its firm commitment to stronger cooperation within the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), even as diplomatic tensions rise over the extradition request involving former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. At the seventh meeting of CSC National Security Advisers held in New Delhi, Bangladesh's NSA Khalilur Rahman said his country remains dedicated to working closely with member nations on maritime security, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and overall regional stability.

Rahman stressed that Bangladesh wants the CSC to grow into an open and inclusive regional organisation. He said the country values every platform that supports collective security and supports the Conclave's focus on five key areas of cooperation. According to him, Bangladesh will continue participating in CSC activities based on the principles of sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and non-interference.

He noted that Bangladesh has already been helping improve maritime safety, prevent piracy, counter terrorism, and strengthen cyber protections across the region. However, he said rising digital threats, especially with the growth of artificial intelligence, have created serious cybersecurity risks. Bangladesh has recently faced waves of misinformation and disinformation, making cyber safety a top priority for the government.

Rahman said the region cannot face these challenges alone and urged CSC nations to cooperate on tackling cybercrimes, managing harmful online content, and protecting digital systems. His remarks come amid strained India–Bangladesh ties after Hasina's death sentence and Dhaka's extradition request. India has acknowledged the verdict. Rahman added that Bangladesh wants the CSC to grow into an inclusive regional group that supports shared goals and strengthens peace in the Indian Ocean region.

WORLD FISHERIES DAY

India marks Fisheries Day with sustainability focus

NEW DELHI

India marked World Fisheries Day on Thursday by highlighting the fast growth of its fisheries sector, its expanding role in the Blue Economy, and the need for sustainable practices. Government data shows that India has become the world's second-largest fish producer, with total output rising from 96 lakh tonnes in 2013–14 to 195 lakh tonnes in 2024–25.

World Fisheries Day, observed globally on November 21, stresses the importance of sustainable fishing and aquaculture in supporting food security, livelihoods, and environmental balance. This year's theme, "India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports," focuses on improving quality and increasing export value.

The fisheries sector is especially important in India, supporting more than 30 million people, mainly in coastal and rural areas. Coastal states and Union Territories produce 72 per cent of India's fish and contribute 76 per cent of seafood exports. Marine exports also grew from $0.81 billion in October 2024 to $0.90 billion in October 2025, showing rising global demand for Indian seafood.

The Centre has strengthened support for the sector through GST 2.0 reforms. The GST on fish oils, fish extracts, and prepared or preserved fish and shrimp products has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. This move is expected to make seafood products more affordable and help exporters compete better worldwide.

India now contributes around 8 per cent of global fish production. Growth has been helped by the country's 11,099 km coastline and rich inland water resources. Inland fisheries alone grew by 140 per cent over the past decade. Major government schemes — including PMMSY, PM-MKSSY, and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund — have also played a key role in expanding production and improving the welfare of fishing communities.

QUICK READ

70 Sikh pilgrims depart for Bangladesh to commemorate key events

Dhaka

As many as 70 Sikh pilgrims left Amritsar for a special religious yatra to Bangladesh, where they will participate in ceremonies commemorating two significant events in Sikh history — the 356th Parkash Purb (birth anniversary) of Guru Nanak Dev and the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, a report said on Thursday According to a report in Khalsa Vox, the Kar Sewa Sampardai of Sarhali organised the contingent, which assembled at the Amritsar railway station before commencing its journey. Prior to departure, Baba Sukha Singh presented a 'Siropa', a traditional robe of honour, to the devotees.

Yunus will not be able to kill my mother: Sheikh Hasina's son

Dhaka

Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed, on Thursday claimed that Muhammad Yunus, who is heading Bangladesh's interim government, will not be able to kill Hasina. He further asserted that Yunus cannot touch my mother and he cannot do anything to her. This comes as the fate of Sheikh Hasina, the former Bangladeshi Prime Minister now in exile in India, remains uncertain after a tribunal court in her country awarded her the death penalty in connection with the deadly violence during the student-led uprising last year.

India and US discuss shared maritime interests

Washington

Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi visited the National Defence University (NDU) at Washington's Fort Lesley J McNair, holding discussions with NDU President Vice Admiral Peter A Garvin on further strengthening defence ties between India and the United States. During the visit, Admiral Tripathi also met Indian officers deputed for education at the Eishenhower School, National War College (NWC) and College of Information and Cyberspace CICA. During his official visit to the US, Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS, visited the National Defense University (NDU).

India Seeks Israeli Investment in Tech, Pharma and Defence Sectors

Piyush Goyal urged Israeli companies to expand in India, citing strong economic fundamentals and vast cross-sector investment potential.

TEL AVIV

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday extended a strong invitation to Israeli businesses, urging them to invest in India's rapidly expanding economy and explore limitless opportunities across key sectors such as technology, pharmaceuticals and defence. Addressing the India-Israel Business Summit alongside Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat, Goyal emphasised that India offers an investor-friendly and predictable business environment ideal for long-term collaboration.

Goyal said India's robust economic indicators make it an attractive global investment destination. Our growth is high, our inflation is low, our forex reserves are at an all-time high of about 700 billion dollars, and our banking system is strong with very low non-performing assets, he noted. He highlighted that India has been consistently investing more than 130 billion dollars annually in infrastructure, helping sustain strong growth momentum.

Outlining India's competitive advantages, the minister said the country operates a single national electricity grid—unlike many countries that rely on multiple regional grids—ensuring reliability and uniformity. He also pointed to India's tax regime, which features one goods and services tax and a single direct tax structure, offering stability and predictability for global investors.

Goyal further underscored the 10 Ds that define India's growth story: democracy, decisive leadership, demand, demographic dividend, diversity, digitalisation, decarbonisation, sustainability focus, the determination of India's 1.4 billion youth, development pace and dependability. These factors, he said, collectively demonstrate why India offers unmatched business opportunities.

Israeli Minister Nir Barkat echoed these sentiments, describing the India-Israel partnership as win-win and extremely valuable. He encouraged Israeli entrepreneurs to collaborate with Indian companies that understand scale and cost-efficient production, stressing that combining Israel's innovation ecosystem with India's vast industrial strength creates a powerful formula for success.

Nepal Eases Entry Fee Rules for Upper Mustang to Boost Foreign Tourism

Nepal has revised its Upper Mustang entry fee structure to attract more foreign tourists and support local demands.

KATHMANDU

Nepal has decided to ease the longstanding entry fee rules for foreigners visiting Upper Mustang, a picturesque yet geopolitically sensitive region in the country's west. The move follows years of requests from local communities and tourism entrepreneurs seeking to make the restricted Himalayan zone more accessible to international travellers. Upper Mustang lies close to the Nepal–China border and has been tightly regulated for decades due to its strategic significance.

In a recent cabinet meeting, the government agreed to remove the earlier flat fee of US$ 500 per person for a mandatory 10-day visit. Under the revised structure, visitors will now pay US$ 50 per person per day, or an equivalent amount in foreign currency. Officials said the change ensures that tourists staying for shorter durations are not compelled to pay disproportionately high fees, making visits more flexible and affordable.

Home Ministry spokesperson Ananda Kafle confirmed that the revision was made to align the fee with the actual number of days spent in the region. He noted that the decision aims to boost tourist inflow and stimulate local economies that rely heavily on trekking and cultural tourism. Local people and tourism entrepreneurs had been urging us to relax the rule so that more foreign tourists could be attracted to the area, Kafle said.

Upper Mustang has been one of Nepal's most restricted regions since the 1970s, when Tibetan Khampa fighters used it as a base for armed operations against China. The insurgency, reportedly backed by the CIA, was later dismantled by the Nepal Army following repeated objections from Beijing. Today, Upper Mustang remains one of 15 restricted zones across districts such as Taplejung, Solukhumbu, Dolakha, Gorkha, Manang, Dolpa, Humla and Darchula, where foreigners must obtain special permits.

Afghan nationals approach Peshawar court against Pakistan's forced repatriation

ISLAMABAD

Around 400 Afghan nationals, including several artists and their families, have approached the Peshawar High Court, requesting the judge to issue orders for government to halt their forced deportation to Afghanistan in accordance with the principle of non-refoulment as they would be subjected to persecution in their country, the local media reported on Thursday. The Afghan nationals filed a joint petition in the court, seeking directives for government to allow their stay in Pakistan as refugees. The petitioners include Zakiya Dunya Ghazal and several other Afghan artists and their families.

The petitioners have referred to an earlier judgement of the high court announced on December 13, 2024 in cases of some other artists and transgender persons, requesting the court to announce verdict in line with that judgement.

Pakistan's Federal Interior Ministry, Federal Secretary of cabinet division, Directors General of National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), immigration and passport and FIA.

Over 10,000 Afghan refugees were expelled from Pakistan and Iran, intensifying concerns over forced returns.

Pakistan, Iran Deport Over 10,000 Afghan Refugees in Day

KABUL

More than 10,000 Afghan refugees were forcibly deported from Pakistan and Iran in just one day, a senior Taliban official confirmed on Thursday, marking one of the largest single-day returns recorded since the mass expulsion campaign began. Taliban Deputy Spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat, citing a report from the High Commission for Addressing Migrants' Issues, said that 1,763 Afghan families — totalling 10,405 people — were pushed back into Afghanistan.

According to Fitrat, the deported refugees entered Afghanistan through multiple border points, including Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, Islam Qala in Herat, Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz and the Torkham crossing in Nangarhar. He added that authorities facilitated the onward travel of 2,222 families comprising 13,303 people to their home provinces, while 1,534 refugees received humanitarian assistance upon arrival.

The latest mass deportation follows a pattern of increasing refugee expulsions. On Tuesday alone, 7,326 Afghan nationals were forcibly returned from both countries. On Sunday, another 12,666 refugees were pushed back across the borders, underscoring the growing scale of the humanitarian crisis faced by returning Afghans.

Meanwhile, concerns about forced deportations continue to rise inside Pakistan. Around 400 Afghan nationals — including artists and their families — have petitioned the Peshawar High Court, urging the judiciary to intervene and halt deportations that violate the principle of non-refoulment. The petitioners argued that returning to Afghanistan places them at severe risk of persecution under Taliban rule, local media reported.

Human rights groups and international agencies have repeatedly warned that large-scale deportations without due process exacerbates the vulnerability of Afghan refugees, many of whom fled conflict, political repression and economic collapse. Despite the warnings, Pakistan and Iran have intensified their crackdown on undocumented Afghans, leaving tens of thousands stranded in precarious conditions.

EU says any peace plan must consult Ukraine, Europe, doubts Russian intent

TERNOPIL

European leaders are adamant that any plan to end Russia's war in Ukraine will need support from both the European Union and Ukraine amid speculation of a potential United States-backed plan that would heavily favour Moscow's demands and narrative.

Arriving for a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels on Thursday, EU foreign policy head Kaja Kallas told reporters that Europeans have always supported long-lasting and just peace, and we welcome any efforts to achieve that.

Of course, for any plan to work, it needs Ukrainians and Europeans on board, she added.

Other top diplomats from Germany, Spain and Poland echoed Kallas, with Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski saying that Europe – whose security is at stake – expects to be consulted on any potential deal.

I hope it's not the victim that has restrictions on its ability to defend itself put on, but it's the aggressor, he said.

Russia, however, appeared to push off the idea of negotiations, saying again on Thursday that a deal with Ukraine would have to eliminate the root causes of the conflict and that there are no negotiations ongoing with Washington on such a plan.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on whether Russian President Vladimir Putin had been briefed on the details of the reported Ukraine peace plan, Reuters news agency reported.

Nigeria's Tinubu delays G20 trip amid search for 24 abducted schoolgirls

KEBBI

Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu has postponed his trip to South Africa for the Group of 20 summit, promising to intensify efforts to rescue 24 schoolgirls abducted by armed men earlier this week. The president's spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, said in a statement that Tinubu suspended his departure in light of the girls' abduction and a separate church attack in which gunmen killed two people.

Tinubu had been set to leave, days before the two-day summit of the world's leading rich and developing nations was due to begin on Saturday. Disturbed by the security breaches in Kebbi State and Tuesday's attack by bandits against worshippers at Christ Apostolic Church, Eruku, President Tinubu decided to suspend his departure to the G20 summit, Onanuga said. It was not clear immediately if or when Tinubu would leave for the weekend summit in Johannesburg.

The schoolgirls were abducted by unidentified armed men from a secondary school in the northwestern town of Maga in Kebbi State late on Sunday night.

The attackers exchanged gunfire with police before scaling the perimeter fence and abducting the students.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

1		7		2	4		3	
	2		1		8		7	5
8			3		7		4	
2		3		7	1		5	8
5		1	6		9		2	
6		8		3	5		9	4
	8		5		6		1	
9	3		8		2	4		7
4		6	7		3	5		3

5	3	8	1	6	2	9	7	4
7	9	6	3	4	8	1	5	2
4	2	1	9	5	7	3	6	8
8	5	7	6	9	1	2	4	3
6	1	3	4	2	5	8	9	7
2	4	9	8	7	3	5	1	6
1	7	2	5	8	6	4	3	9
9	8	5	7	3	4	6	2	1
3	6	4	2	1	9	7	8	5

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

BALOCHISTAN KILLING REPORT

Human Rights Body Reports Another Extrajudicial Killing in Balochistan's Kech District

QUETTA

A prominent human rights organisation has reported another extrajudicial killing in Balochistan, deepening concerns over a sharp escalation in state-linked violence across the province. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) on Thursday confirmed that the mutilated and decomposed body of school teacher Ayaz Baloch was discovered in the Reko Dam area of Buleda in Kech district. The incident adds to a growing list of alleged abuses marked by enforced disappearances, torture and killings.

According to the BYC, the condition of the body was so severe that Ayaz's face was unrecognisable. His family identified him only by his clothing and the shoes found beside him. He was reportedly abducted on November 12 by Pakistani security forces, accompanied by a state-backed armed group, near Main Bazar in the Mehnaz region of Kech as he was returning home from school.

The rights organisation said Ayaz's killing reflects a broader, long-running pattern of violence targeting Baloch civilians, including teachers, students, activists, women and even children. BYC accused Pakistani forces of systematically using enforced disappearances and torture as tools of repression. It urged the international community to intervene and ensure accountability for the continuing human rights violations in the region.

The latest report comes amid a resurgence of disappearances and killings across Balochistan. Paank, the Human Rights Department of the Baloch National Movement, highlighted another recent incident in which two brothers — Doshambay and Mian Dad from Pasni in Gwadar district — were allegedly abducted by Pakistani security forces on November 19. Rights groups say such cases form part of a deeply entrenched cycle of impunity.

Human rights advocates warn that unless global bodies exert pressure, violence against Baloch civilians will continue unchecked, further destabilising a region long marred by conflict and state suppression.

QUICK READ

AI Could Drive 20% of India's Tech Revenue

New Delhi

Artificial intelligence (AI) is set to become the biggest growth driver for India's IT services and software export industry, with AI led projects projected to account for up to 20 per cent of the sector's revenue by 2030, a report said on Thursday. The report from investment bank Equirus Capital said AI is transforming delivery models and boosting productivity by 45-50 per cent of Indian tech firms. I adoption by Indian tech firms is leading to a shift in pricing models from Time and Material (T&M), which dominate at present, to Outcome-based pricing (OBP).

India Pushes Sustainability, Blue Economy

Chennai

India is the second-largest fish producing country and one of the largest shrimp producers in the world, with fish production more than doubling from 96 lakh tonnes in 2013–14 to 195 lakh tonnes in 2024–25, the government data showed on Thursday, ahead of the World Fisheries Day. Observed worldwide on November 21, the World Fisheries Day underscores the critical role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in supporting food and nutritional security, livelihood generation, and ecological balance. This year, World Fisheries Day is being observed with the theme India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports.

Centre Relaxes Rules for Certain Steel Imports

New Delhi

The government on Thursday announced new measures to ease rules for import of steel grades not covered under Quality Control Orders (QCOs), apart from approving extension of certain exemptions after reviewing the concerns submitted by industry participants. In order to streamline the regulatory framework governing steel imports and to facilitate ease of doing business, the Ministry of Steel undertook a review of the existing import-related requirements. It also reviewed the requirement for obtaining clarification or No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Steel for import of steel grades not covered under any QCO.

India's Semiconductor Drive Gains Momentum with Investments

India's semiconductor mission is accelerating as growing investor confidence boosts private capital alongside strong government-backed initiatives nationwide.

NEW DELHI

India's ambitious semiconductor programme is entering a crucial phase, with private investment beginning to flow in as a result of the country's expanding design ecosystem and abundant engineering talent, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday. Speaking at Bloomberg's New Economy Forum in Singapore, Vaishnaw emphasised that India's chip strategy, once heavily driven by government intervention, is now generating independent confidence among global chipmakers.

The minister highlighted that India aims to elevate its semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem to the level of major chip-producing nations by 2032. He described the 2031–2032 period as the point at which India expects to match benchmarks currently achieved by established international players, positioning the country for a fair and competitive role in the global semiconductor race.

Although India's semiconductor programme is still in its early stages, the government has significantly increased spending to attract both chip designers and manufacturers. A substantial $10 billion incentive fund has already catalysed the development of multiple assembly, packaging and testing facilities. Vaishnaw noted that Micron Technology has set up a plant in Gujarat, while the Tata Group is among around 10 companies preparing to build fabrication units within the country.

According to the minister, three of India's semiconductor facilities are expected to begin commercial production early next year, marking a major milestone in the nation's chip-making journey. He added that the government's strong policy push, combined with a rapidly expanding talent pool, is creating favourable conditions for sustained private sector involvement. This approach mirrors the way government incentives inspired Apple and its suppliers to increase iPhone manufacturing operations in India.

Vaishnaw further stressed that India's model of offering a common and affordable compute facility is helping democratise technology access, ensuring that innovation becomes more inclusive as the semiconductor ecosystem matures.

WhatsApp vulnerability exposed data of 3.5 billion users

NEW DELHI

A major vulnerability in WhatsApp left the personal details of nearly 3.5 billion users exposed, a research report from the University of Vienna has claimed. The team of researchers uncovered a weakness in the platform's contact discovery feature that allowed them to systematically check every possible phone number and identify active WhatsApp accounts on a massive scale.

Meta, the owner of the messaging service, was made aware of the problem and has taken steps to resolve the issue. They generated over 100 million queries per hour using an automated method and ultimately gathered information on users from 245 countries.

Although the information retrieved was limited to data already visible to anyone having a phone number -- such as public keys, profile photos, about text, and timestamps -- the researchers said these fragments were enough to infer additional insights, including a user's operating system, how long they had been on the platform, and the number of linked devices.

India's renewable energy capacity is projected to rise sharply by FY30, though execution delays threaten timely sectoral progress.

India's Renewable Energy Share to Exceed 35% by FY30

NEW DELHI

India's renewable energy (RE) share in overall electricity generation, including large hydropower, is expected to surpass 35 per cent by FY30, rising from 22.1 per cent in FY25, according to a report released on Thursday. The estimate is based on an anticipated addition of nearly 200 GW of new RE capacity between FY25 and FY30, reflecting the country's accelerated push toward cleaner and more sustainable power sources.

However, this projection depends heavily on the successful execution of the ongoing project pipeline, where bidding is completed and power purchase agreements (PPAs) have been signed. The report, published by rating agency ICRA, highlights the crucial need for transmission infrastructure development and timely bidding for new renewable projects by central nodal agencies. Despite these challenges, the outlook for the sector remains stable, supported by favourable government policies, competitive tariff trends and a strong sustainability focus among commercial and industrial consumers.

The report also flags multiple bottlenecks affecting the pace of renewable expansion. These include land acquisition hurdles, inadequate transmission capacity, delays in PPA signings, volatility in equipment prices and the financial stress of distribution utilities. After witnessing robust activity with 47.3 GW of renewable capacity awarded in FY24 and 40.6 GW in FY25, bidding has slowed significantly. Only 5.8 GW has been awarded during the first eight months of FY26, raising concerns about project continuity. Additionally, industry assessments indicate that nearly 40–45 GW of awarded capacity remains without signed PPAs.

Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President at ICRA, noted that the decline in new bids and delays in signing PPAs reflect uncertainties related to transmission connectivity. He emphasised that strengthening grid infrastructure and expanding storage capacity at both state and inter-state levels are essential as renewables take up a larger share of India's energy mix.

Indian Metal, Mining Stocks Set for Growth

NEW DELHI

Most Indian metals and mining stocks are trading at a large premium to global peers due to strong, sustained domestic demand, a report showed on Thursday. HSBC Global Research said in the report that the sector has a good year, with more to come, due to rich resource reserves and supportive regulatory policies.

This is the result of strong, sustainable demand driven by urbanisation and infrastructure spending; large iron ore, coal, bauxite, and zinc reserves which make Indian companies the lowest cost producers globally; and supportive regulatory policies that provide protection from low-cost imports, especially from China, the report maintained. The research firm prefers aluminium due to China's capacity cap and steady global demand. We also have a positive view on silver and expect prices to remain firm, given increasing investor demand, the statement said.

India is the world's fastest-growing steel market, but we see steel stocks as more cyclical, given the seasonality of demand and lower Chinese steel production, it added.

HSBC initiated coverage with 'Buy' ratings on several top Indian aluminium stocks, expecting global headwinds on them to fade away.

The report cited positive factors to support premium valuation, such as Indian metals and mining stocks having re-rated in line with the broader markets.

Balance sheets are relatively strong as companies have deleveraged, and the long-term outlook is bright as the metals intensity of GDP growth remains elevated. HSBC, however, warned of downside risks from a slowdown in China or the US, a sharp pullback in global growth and a stronger US dollar that could create cash flow pressures for the companies. Indian steel has relatively lower risks as a result of the government's 12 per cent safeguard duty on imports, it added.

Bank Growth Approved, Inclusion Gains Highlighted

India's inter-departmental committee has approved major domestic and foreign bank expansion proposals while stressing strong financial inclusion progress.

NEW DELHI

M. Nagaraju, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), on Thursday chaired a crucial meeting of the inter-departmental committee (IDC) to review proposals submitted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding the establishment of branches, representative offices and subsidiaries of foreign banks in the country. The committee also examined proposals from Indian banks seeking clearance to expand their footprint abroad.

During the meeting, the IDC further assessed requests from foreign banks for relocation of their existing branches within India. After detailed scrutiny and consultations, the committee recommended all proposals placed before it. Representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Department of Commerce (DoC) and the RBI participated in the discussions, ensuring a broad and coordinated evaluation.

The IDC operates under the DFS and functions as the nodal body responsible for assessing expansion proposals involving both domestic and foreign banking entities. According to an official statement from the Ministry of Finance, the committee adopts a consensus-driven approach, consulting with all relevant ministries before finalising its recommendations. This mechanism is intended to ensure that decisions are comprehensive, secure and aligned with national priorities.

Earlier, speaking at the CII Financing Summit 2025, Nagaraju highlighted India's rapid progress in financial inclusion and digital transformation. He described the two areas as among the nation's most remarkable achievements over the past decade, reshaping financial access and strengthening institutional trust.

Nagaraju noted that the Financial Inclusion Index reached 67.0 in March 2025, up from 64.2 the year prior, underscoring increasing participation in the formal financial ecosystem. He also pointed to the continuing success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), with the number of Jan Dhan accounts rising from 52 crore to nearly 57 crore in just 18 months, reflecting the sustained momentum of India's inclusion-driven reforms.

S. Korea to raise anti-dumping tariffs for 2 Chinese PET film companies

SEOUL

South Korea's trade watchdog decided on Thursday to raise anti-dumping tariffs on polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film products imported from two Chinese companies, citing the need to protect domestic companies' market share. The Korea Trade Commission (KTC) said it made a final decision to increase anti-dumping duties on PET film products imported from China's Kanghui New Material Technology Co. to 7.31 percent from the current 2.2 percent. Duties on those imported from Tianjin Wanhua Co. will be hiked to 36.98 percent from the current 3.84 percent, it added.

The re-examination request was made by four Korean companies, including Kolon Industries Inc. and Hyosung Chemical Corp., in February. PET films are widely used in various industries, such as packaging, electronics and energy. It marked the first case in which the KTC conducted a re-examination of anti-dumping duties at the request of domestic producers and determined the current tariff rates should be modified.

We reached such a decision as the volume of dumping exports (of the Chinese companies) to Korea will likely increase and raise their market share here, a KTC official said. Meanwhile, trade watchdog last month held separate public hearings on suspected damage to local companies in two ongoing anti-dumping cases involving Chinese and Japanese firms.

BLUE ECONOMY POWERHOUSE

Gujarat Strengthens Position as Blue Economy Leader on World Fisheries Day

AHMEDABAD

As the world observes World Fisheries Day on November 21, Gujarat home to India's longest coastline continues to cement its position as a powerhouse of the country's blue economy. With abundant marine resources, a thriving fishing workforce and sustained policy support, the state has emerged as one of India's most reliable contributors to fisheries production and coastal economic growth.

Official estimates show that Gujarat currently ranks second nationally in marine fish output and sixth in total fish production. In 2024–25, the state recorded more than 10.42 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of fish production, comprising 7.64 lakh MT from marine sources and 2.78 lakh MT from inland fisheries. Looking ahead, Gujarat is projected to surpass 11 lakh MT in 2025–26, reflecting its rising capacity and the strengthening of coastal ecosystems. Over the past four years, the state's average annual fish production has consistently exceeded 9.30 lakh MT, highlighting sustained performance and resilience.

Gujarat's fisheries sector is not only vital to domestic supply chains but also plays a significant role in India's export economy. The state is a major supplier of frozen shrimp, ribbonfish, cuttlefish and squid — all of which see strong demand in markets across China, Europe, the United States and Japan. These exports contribute substantially to India's foreign exchange earnings and have transformed the state's coastline into a major driver of maritime trade and economic opportunity.

With modernisation programmes, upgraded fishing harbours and ongoing support for deep-sea fishing, Gujarat continues to build a more sustainable and globally competitive fisheries ecosystem. As World Fisheries Day is celebrated worldwide, the state's robust performance underscores its critical contribution to India's blue economy and its growing relevance in global seafood markets.

Seoul's industry minister discusses AI, energy ties with UAE counterpart

SEOUL

South Korean Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan met with his United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart this week to discuss cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) and energy sectors, according to Seoul officials on Thursday. Kim met with the UAE's industry minister, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday (local time) to discuss exchanges in the fields, shortly after the leaders of the two countries agreed to bolster economic cooperation across various sectors in a bilateral summit, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.

Earlier this week, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a summit in Abu Dhabi and agreed to jointly develop a cooperation model for entering global markets based on the Barakah nuclear power plant model. The Barakah plant was built by the Korea Electric Power Corp., marking Korea's first-ever overseas nuclear energy plant project. Seoul has also decided to join the UAE's Stargate project centred on AI and energy infrastructure.

The two ministers also exchanged views on promoting bilateral cooperation in advanced manufacturing, petroleum, liquefied natural gas and battery.

Meanwhile, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won said that South Korea needs to revamp business policies to help companies pursue large-scale investment in the artificial intelligence (AI) sector, stressing the need for speedy and timely investments to keep pace in the global AI race. The game depends not only on volume but also on speed, Chey, who also serves as head of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said during a televised business forum, noting that economic security will depend on who takes leadership in the AI sector.

Squads

Australia

Jack Weatherald, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith (capt), Travis Head, Cameron Green, Alex Carey, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Brendan Doggett, Scott Boland

England

Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (capt), Jamie Smith, Brydon Carse, Gus Atkinson, Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Shoaib Bashir

Eng Target Breakthrough to End Ashes Drought Down Under

England begin Ashes bid today aiming for first Test win in Australia since 2010

PERTH

England and Australia launch another chapter of their storied rivalry today, opening a five-Test Ashes series in Perth that arrives with storylines as charged as the contests themselves. England, winless Down Under for 15 years, enter under captain Ben Stokes with renewed ambition, while Australia grapple with injuries that have stripped half their frontline pace attack.

The build-up stretches back to July 2023, when England won the final Test at The Oval but still failed to reclaim the urn. Now, with questions swirling over aging legs, new faces, and psychological scars, the stage is set for a high-stakes battle.

Australia's bowling ranks are depleted with Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood unavailable for the opener. Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon shoulder the experience, while debutant Brendan Doggett partners Scott Boland in a historic pairing of two Indigenous cricketers in a men's Test XI. Cameron Green's fitness opens the door for Jake Weatherald's debut at 31, allowing Marnus Labuschagne to return to No. 3 and Steve Smith to lead at No. 4 as stand-in captain.

Stokes, fully aware of England's bleak record — 13 defeats and two draws in their last 15 Tests on Australian soil — insists his team is ready to "create our own history." England are preparing a pace-heavy attack suited to Perth's bounce, with Jofra Archer and a fit-again Mark Wood leading the charge. Brydon Carse and Gus Atkinson strengthen the seam options, though young spinner Shoaib Bashir remains in the match squad.

Smith, captaining Australia again in Cummins' absence, is described by teammates as more relaxed yet fiercely competitive — traits that may define Australia's resilience in a challenging start to the series.

Ravindra, Conway Shine as NZ Seal ODI Series against WI

NAPIER

New Zealand clinched the three-match ODI series with a thrilling five-wicket win over the West Indies in a rain-curtailed second match at McLean Park. The hosts, chasing 248 in a 34-over contest, rode on blistering half-centuries from Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra, whose 106-run opening stand dismantled the visitors' early challenge.

Put in to bat, the West Indies suffered a shaky start, losing half their side for just 86 in under 16 overs. Kyle Jamieson led New Zealand's charge with figures of 3/44, removing John Campbell and Keacy Carty to set the tone. But wicketkeeper-captain Shai Hope steadied the innings superbly, smashing 100 off pure counterattack — his 19th ODI century — laced with 13 boundaries and four sixes. Valuable late runs from Justin Greaves and Romario Shepherd helped lift the total to a competitive 247/9.

New Zealand's chase began positively as Conway (90) and Ravindra (56) dominated the West Indies attack, scoring freely on both sides of the

New Zealand secure 2-0 ODI series win after dominant top-order assault

wicket. However, Ravindra's dismissal triggered a brief wobble, with Will Young and Mark Chapman falling in quick succession. Conway's departure at 166/4 put the pressure back on the middle order as the required run rate climbed into double digits.

Tom Latham (39* off 29) and captain Mitchell Santner (34* off 15) steadied the innings with calculated aggression, ensuring New Zealand stayed in control. With seven needed off the final five deliveries, a costly no-ball from Jayden Seales was hit for four by Latham, leaving Santner to seal the win with a composed cover drive.

Player-of-the-match Shai Hope urged his side to convert close games into wins, noting, "To be a great team, you have to keep winning against the best."

New Zealand will aim for a clean sweep in the third ODI on Saturday before the teams begin a three-Test series from December 2.

Ayush Shetty Reaches Australian Open Quarters as Prannoy Crashes Out

SYDNEY

India enjoyed mixed fortunes at the Australian Open on Thursday, with rising star Ayush Shetty storming into the quarterfinals even as experienced campaigner HS Prannoy bowed out early. Shetty, who has been in fine form this season, produced a commanding straight-game win over world No. 9 Kodai Naraoka of Japan to underline his growing stature on the international circuit.

Youngster Ayush Shetty advances confidently while veteran HS Prannoy suffers early defeat

The 2025 Yonex US Open champion defeated the fourth seed 21-17, 21-16 in a hard-fought 68-minute contest, marking his second victory over Naraoka this year. The 20-year-old Indian displayed composure in pressure moments, pulling away from 18-17 in the opening game before closing it out with three straight points. In the second game, Shetty again found an extra gear at 14-all, rattling off five consecutive points to seize control and book a last-eight meeting with compatriot Lakshya Sen.

In contrast, Prannoy's struggles in the 2025 season continued. The world No. 33 fell to Indonesia's eighth seed and former junior world champion Farhan Alwi 19-21, 10-21 in just 42 minutes. Prannoy, who has not progressed beyond the pre-quarterfinals this year, failed to replicate the fight he showed on Wednesday when he battled past world No. 85 Yohanes Saut Marcellyno in three games.

India also enjoyed success in doubles, with top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruising into the quarterfinals. The world-class pair outplayed Su Ching Heng and Wu Guan Xun of Chinese Taipei 21-18, 21-11 in 37 minutes, maintaining their strong run in the Super 500 event.

Satwik and Chirag will next face Indonesia's fifth-seeded duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, while Shetty eyes another big scalp as he continues his impressive campaign.

Chess World Cup: Wei Ends Arjun's Run as Indian Challenge Fades

GOA

China's Wei Yi ended India's Chess World Cup run by defeating Arjun Erigaisi 1.5-0.5 in the quarterfinal tie-breaks at Resort Rio in Goa. Arjun, India's last remaining contender and needing a top-three finish to reach the 2026 Candidates, held a tense 66-move draw in the first rapid game but blundered in a rook-and-bishop endgame in the second, allowing Wei to finish with a 79-move checkmate. Wei said Arjun "took some risks" that proved costly. Elsewhere, Jovakhir Sindarov beat Jose Martínez Alcantara, and Andrey Esipenko overcame Sam Shankland. The semifinals will feature Sindarov vs Yakubboev and Wei vs Esipenko.

UEFA Clears Barcelona to Host Champions League Match at Renovated Camp Nou

BARCELONA

Barcelona will play their next Champions League home match at the partially reopened Camp Nou after UEFA approved the club's request to return to the iconic venue. The club confirmed that it will host Eintracht Frankfurt on December 9 in the league phase of the competition, marking its first European night at the stadium since renovation work began in June 2023.

UEFA granted a special exemption, as competition rules typically require teams to use the same home stadium for all league-phase fixtures. Barcelona said the governing body accepted that the stadium now meets all mandatory safety and operational conditions. Around 45,000 spectators will be accommodated for the match while reconstruction continues.

The return forms part of Barcelona's ongoing progress in transforming the historic ground—now the Spotify Camp Nou—with the aim of expanding capacity from 99,000 to 105,000. The club described the approval as an important milestone in its broader redevelopment plan.

Barcelona will first open the renovated stadium to fans on Saturday for their Spanish league match against Athletic Bilbao. That fixture will also admit a capped attendance of 45,401 fans. Earlier this month, more than 20,000 supporters paid to watch the team train at the updated venue on November 7, signaling strong anticipation for the full reopening.

Olympic medallist Kenny Bednarek to inspire runners at landmark Kolkata event

Bednarek Named Int'l Ambassador for Kolkata's 10th World 25K Race

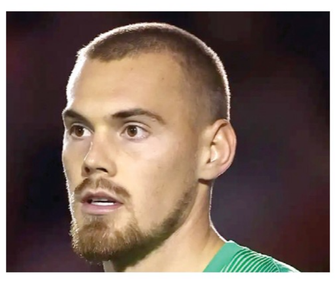
KOLKATA

Olympic and World Championships medallist Kenny Bednarek has been announced as the International Event Ambassador for the 10th edition of the Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata, scheduled for Sunday. The American sprint star, one of track and field's most dynamic performers, expressed excitement at being part of the milestone edition of the race.

Bednarek, a double Olympic silver medallist in the 200m at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, and a gold and silver winner at the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo, said the race aligns deeply with his personal philosophy as an athlete. "Life has taught me that the journey matters more than the destination. Every race, every step, builds you," he said. "The city's passion for sport and the race's focus on community and health truly resonate with my own story. I look forward to encouraging Kolkata's spirited participants and celebrating their drive."

Widely regarded as one of the fastest sprinters of his generation, Bednarek holds personal bests of 9.79 seconds in the 100m (2025), 19.57 seconds in the 200m (2024), and 44.73 seconds in the 400m (2019). His versatility across sprint distances and his consistency at major championships have made him a global track icon. DB Sundara Ramam, Vice President – Corporate Services, Tata Steel, expressed pride in welcoming Bednarek for the landmark edition. "His journey personifies resilience, purpose, and the belief that consistent effort can shape one's destiny," he said, noting that the sprinter's presence would provide inspiration for thousands of runners.

The Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata, now in its 10th year, has grown into one of India's premier road-running events, celebrating fitness, inclusivity, and community spirit. Bednarek's participation is expected to elevate the event's global profile while motivating participants across categories.



Denmark Urge Jorgensen to Play More before 2026 World Cup

LONDON

Denmark have warned Chelsea goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen that he must secure more first-team minutes to stay in contention for the No. 1 spot at the 2026 World Cup. With Kasper Schmeichel struggling in recent qualifiers and Mads Hermansen underperforming at West Ham, Jorgensen is viewed as a major challenger. However, the 23-year-old has yet to start a Premier League match under Enzo Maresca, featuring mainly in cup games despite a strong Champions League display against Ajax. A January loan is possible as he balances World Cup ambitions with limited club opportunities, which could prompt Chelsea to recall Strasbourg loanee Mike Penders.

Looking to Take Positive Approach, Says TN White-Ball Coach Venkataramana

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's disappointing Ranji Trophy campaign may have ended their knockout hopes, but newly appointed white-ball head coach M. Venkataramana believes the team is primed for a strong comeback in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT). The former India off-spinner, who previously coached the state side, was officially handed charge of the white-ball unit and is keen to approach the fresh assignment with clarity and optimism.

Varun Chakravarthy leads a seasoned squad where IPL-experienced seniors support emerging talents and flexible bowling options

Venkataramana acknowledged the team's struggles in the red-ball format but insisted that T20 cricket offers a clean slate. "It is a challenging job, but red-ball and white-ball formats are completely different. Tamil Nadu couldn't play to their potential in the Ranji Trophy, but SMAT is a new tournament. I see this as a fresh start," he told this daily. With several players carrying notable IPL and TNPL experience, he expects the squad to embrace an aggressive and positive mindset.

The team will be led by mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who may be captaining the state side for the first time but brings substantial IPL pedigree and renewed confidence after impressive performances abroad. "T20 captaincy is spontaneous, and instant decisions matter. Varun's IPL and India experience will help him handle the group well. He is in a great mental and physical space, and this will reflect on the team," Venkataramana said.

The coach also highlighted the depth of experience within the squad, noting that 8–9 players come with IPL exposure. He expects senior players to guide emerging talents such as Tushar Raheja, Amit Sathvik, Rithik Easwarn and Andre Siddharth. On the bowling front, he remained open to fielding two left-arm seamers—T Natarajan and in-form Gurjapneet Singh—depending on conditions.

With a strong spin core featuring Sai Kishore, M Siddharth and Varun, Venkataramana stressed the importance of tactical flexibility.

Azhar Ali Steps Down Amid PCB Restructuring Turmoil

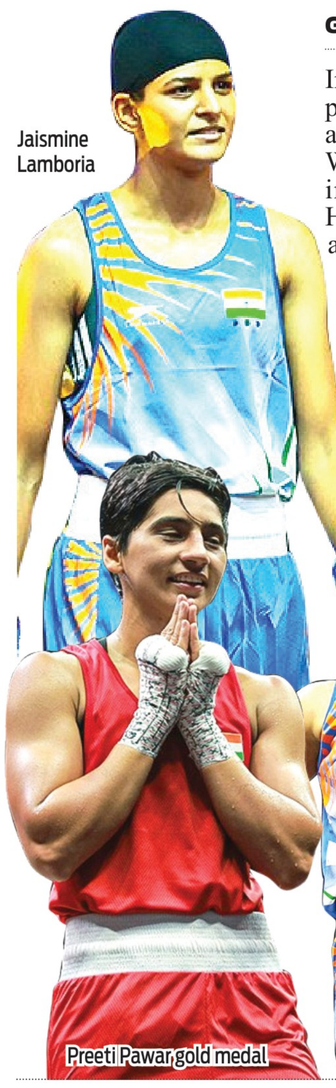
LAHORE

Pakistan's former Test captain Azhar Ali has resigned from both the national selection committee and his role as head of youth development at the National Cricket Academy, adding to the PCB's ongoing restructuring turmoil. A source confirmed Azhar stepped down after feeling sidelined, particularly when Sarfaraz Ahmed was given full authority over the Pakistan Shaheens and under-19 teams — responsibilities that overlapped heavily with Azhar's mandate. Frustrated by delays, ignored proposals and decisions made without his input, Azhar viewed the shift of power to Sarfaraz as a removal of his core duties. Sarfaraz, already serving as mentor and advisor, received expanded control last week. Meanwhile, the PCB also opted not to renew women's coach Muhammad Wasim's contract following Pakistan's last-place World Cup finish, highlighting broader instability.

World Boxing Cup 2025

INDIAN WOMEN BOXERS CLAIM SEVEN GOLD, TOTAL 20 MEDALS

Fifteen Indian boxers featured in finals, securing six gold, six silver, and five bronze medals overall


Jaismine Lamboria

Preeti Pawar gold medal

Nupur Sheoran gold medal

GREATER NOIDA

Indian women boxers, led by star pugilist Nikhat Zareen, delivered a stunning performance at the World Boxing Cup Finals, claiming seven gold medals, while Hitesh Gulia and Sachin Siwach also added to the tally with silver medals. The Indian contingent finished the tournament with at least one medal in all 20 weight categories, ending with nine gold, six silver, and five bronze medals.

Fifteen Indian boxers featured in the finals. Reigning world champions Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti Pawar (54kg), world bronze medallist Minakshi Hooda (48kg), former youth world champion Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), and Nupur (+80kg) all struck gold. Silver medals were won by Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), Pawan Bartwal (55kg), Ankush Phangal (80kg), Jadumani Singh (50kg), Sachin Siwach (65kg), and Pooja Rani (80kg). Bronze medals went to Jugnoo (85kg), Naveen (90kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Saweety (75kg), and Parveen (65kg).

The tournament saw several top-ranked international boxers absent, with countries like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan fielding second-string squads. Indian pugilists on the comeback trail—including Parveen, Preeti, and Arundhati—used the platform to regain rhythm and confidence ahead of upcoming competitions.

Notable performances included Jaismine Lamboria's 4–1 win over Paris Olympics medallist Wu Shih Yi, Preeti Pawar's clinical victory over Italy's Sirine Charrabi, and Nikhat Zareen's 3–2 triumph over China's Guo Yi Xuan, marking her first gold since the 2023 World Championships. Minakshi Hooda, Arundhati Choudhary, and Sachin Siwach also delivered dominant wins to reinforce India's commanding presence in both women's and men's Olympic-class categories.

The WBC Finals highlighted India's depth and resilience, signaling a promising road to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Abhinash Jamwal's silver medal

Arundhati Chowdhury gold Medal

Jadumani Singh Mandengbam silver Medal

Minakshi Hooda gold medal

Nikhat Zareen

Hope Rises as Tiger Woods Edges Toward Champions Tour Return

NEW YORK

Tiger Woods has yet to announce when—or even if—he will return to competitive golf, but one longtime PGA Tour friend is optimistic the 15-time major winner might be seen on the Champions Tour in the near future. Woods, who underwent back surgery on October 10, has already withdrawn from the Hero World Challenge, the December 4–7 event he hosts, and is not currently listed to play alongside his son Charlie at the PNC Championship later in the month.

Woods turns 50 on December 30, making him eligible for the season-opening Champions Tour event in Hawaii from January 22–24. Davis Love III, hosting this week's RSM Classic, said he hopes Woods will be healthy enough to make the trip. "Tiger could still contend in majors if he were healthy," Love said. "I'm hoping to see him in Hawaii in January. That would be a great start to the year."

Woods has not played since the 2024 Open Championship and also underwent surgery in March to repair a ruptured Achilles tendon. Despite seven back surgeries, he remains active in the new indoor TGL league, which has fueled hopes that he is working toward a competitive return. Love is lobbying for mandatory cart use on the Champions Tour to ease pressure on older players, including Woods.

A close PGA Tour friend believes Tiger Woods could return sooner than expected

Several big names will be eligible for the Champions circuit in 2026, including Zach Johnson. But whether Woods appears soon depends heavily on his health. Notah Begay III believes Woods remains driven by the chance to surpass Sam Snead with a record-breaking 83rd PGA Tour win. "His biggest issue is the walking," Begay said. "He still hits it great, and his ball speed is more than adequate."

Chennai Workshop Aims to Boost Heart Health among Pickleball Players

CHENNAI

Pickleball's rise across Chennai — from neighbourhood courts to mall arenas — has inspired a new initiative focused on keeping players healthy as the sport grows. The Cardiac Wellness Institute will soon host Pickle Hearts, a two-hour workshop designed to help enthusiasts understand how to protect their hearts, prevent injuries and sustain long-term wellbeing while enjoying the fast-paced racquet sport.

Preventive cardiologist and pickleball player Dr. Priya Chockalingam was motivated by what she observed on the courts: players of all ages diving into matches with infectious enthusiasm but often bypassing warm-ups, stretching or adequate recovery. With many newcomers in their 40s and 50s, she felt the community needed structured guidance

on safe play. "They are getting great physical activity, but a gentle push towards overall heart health can make a big difference," she notes.

Pickleball's appeal lies in its accessibility, which has attracted beginners, seniors, and multi-sport athletes — many of whom also play tennis or badminton. But the combination of sudden bursts, quick pivots and competitive energy can lead to common injuries and place cardiovascular stress on older adults or those returning to sport after long breaks.

Pickle Hearts aims to address these gaps. The workshop will cover balanced nutrition for active adults, key flexibility and mobility routines that support joint stability, and practical ways pickleball can be integrated into a heart-healthy lifestyle. A Q&A session will allow participants to raise concerns about chest discomfort, cardiac risk factors, sudden cardiac death and preventive assessments.

Premier League's New Entertainment Hierarchy Springs Big Surprises

LONDON

The debate around whether the Premier League has sacrificed entertainment for tactical rigidity has intensified this season, prompting a fresh examination of which clubs still deliver genuine excitement. A new entertainment ranking highlights unexpected shifts, with traditional heavyweights slipping and lesser-heralded sides stepping into the limelight.

While football's global appeal depends on unpredictability and spectacle, fans have increasingly questioned whether the league's pursuit of perfection has dulled its edge. This sentiment is reflected in the surprising placement of teams like Arsenal and Tottenham, both languishing in the bottom half due to pragmatic, set-piece-focused approaches. Even as Arsenal push for major honours, their reliance on dead-ball routines has cost them the aesthetic flair once synonymous with the club.

Conversely, clubs outside the Big Six have brought breathless energy back to the competition. Bournemouth lead the rankings, their relentless, high-tempo style under Andoni Iraola turning every match into a frenetic contest. Crystal Palace follow closely, continuing to defy expectations with Oliver Glasner's vibrant approach and a squad packed with unpredictable match-winners.

Liverpool, Manchester City, and Manchester United remain near the top, but not for the reasons one might expect. Defensive fragility, tactical

evolution, and sheer narrative chaos have made these traditional giants compelling for neutrals—if occasionally exasperating for fans.

At the other end, Wolves, Burnley and Leeds struggle not only for points but for watchability. Compact structures and caution-first philosophies have rendered their matches functional rather than thrilling. As tactics evolve and managers chase security over spectacle, this year's rankings underline a simple truth: entertainment in the Premier League now lives in unexpected places, far from the established elite.

Why Lionel Messi's PSG Stint Faltered, Ex-Director Reveals

PARIS

Former Paris Saint-Germain sporting director Leonardo has broken his silence on Lionel Messi's complicated two-year stay in France, offering new insight into why the Argentine's highly anticipated move never reached its full potential. Messi joined PSG in 2021 after Barcelona's financial crisis prevented the renewal of his contract, ending a 20-year association with the Catalan club.

Leonardo, who oversaw PSG's transfer operations until 2022, explained that Messi's transition was far more challenging than anticipated. "Messi wanted to stay at Barça, but from the moment Barcelona couldn't keep him, PSG was the first choice. After that, there was a lot of misunderstanding," he said. "It was difficult for him. He had been in the same place for 20 years, and then you moved. Saying he wasn't happy is a way of defending himself. There was the elimination at Real Madrid; it was complicated."

Messi arrived to form a star-studded attacking trio alongside Neymar and Kylian Mbappé, sparking expectations of a historic Champions League triumph. While he helped PSG secure consecutive Ligue 1 titles, European success remained elusive, with the club crashing out in the Round of 16 in both seasons. His final year also saw tensions escalate, culminating in regular jeers from PSG fans.

Leonardo's remarks echo sentiments recently shared by former PSG midfielder Rafinha, who said the dressing-room dynamics were simply unmanageable. Speaking on a podcast, Rafinha noted that the squad was overloaded with elite players in every position, making tactical balance and squad harmony nearly impossible. "They were the best team in the world in terms of names, but at the same time, difficult to manage," he said.

Since joining Inter Miami in 2023, Messi has revived his career spectacularly. He led the club to the MLS Supporters' Shield, finished as the league's top scorer with 34 goals, and has signed a contract extension until 2028 as Miami targets its maiden MLS Cup.

Leonardo says Messi's challenging PSG stint stemmed from upheaval, pressure and misunderstandings

Rohit Backs India to Shine at Junior World Cup on Home Soil

CHENNAI

India's junior men's hockey captain Rohit is confident the team will deliver an impressive performance at the FIH Junior World Cup, to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10. Known for his powerful dragflicks and fearless rushing, the 21-year-old Haryana defender is embracing both the challenge and the responsibility of leading the side in his final stint with the junior squad.

Rohit expressed excitement about playing in front of home fans, noting that familiar conditions and vocal support could tilt pressure toward visiting teams. "I'm feeling good because we are playing in front of the home crowd," he said. "Training and support have always been strong, and I'm excited because the other teams will come under pressure."

A member of the junior setup since 2022, Rohit has already earned gold medals at the 2023 and 2024 Asia Cups and the 2022 Sultan of Johor Cup. His appointment as captain ahead of several seniors was endorsed by head coach P.R. Sreejesh, who described it as a collective decision shaped by team trust. "He is one of the iconic players and part of the leadership group. When I asked the players who they would pick, most of them chose Rohit," Sreejesh said.

For Rohit, pressure is intertwined with responsibility. As a key dragflicker, he knows the team depends on his finishing ability during critical moments. "When the team is losing, I have to tell the players to be more active," he added.

Competing recently with the senior national team in Bengaluru exposed the juniors to top-level intensity.

Esha Singh Savours Historic World Championship Bronze

CAIRO

Esha Singh's bronze at the ISSF World Championship in Cairo marked a watershed moment for Indian shooting, making her the first Indian woman to win an individual senior medal at the event.

India's 20-year-old pistol ace Esha Singh has etched her name into shooting history, becoming the first Indian woman to win an individual senior World Championship medal with her bronze in the 25m pistol event in Cairo. The achievement crowns a remarkable year in which she has already clinched an individual gold and silver at World Cup stages and now heads to the World Cup Finals in Doha with surging confidence.

Calling it her most significant accomplishment yet, Esha spoke about the magnitude of the moment. "Definitely, the World Championship is a very special medal for me. I think it could be my highest achievement until this point," she said, acknowledging a field packed with elite global talent.

Facing heightened pressure, she delivered her best qualification score of the season — a performance that brought both relief and pride. "Surpassing that pressure and giving my absolute best performance is definitely a special win to me… I'm very grateful and happy about it," she added.

Esha also recognised the symbolic weight of becoming the first Indian woman to secure this medal. "It's a very heartfelt moment and I am very grateful that I'm the first one to get this medal in the women's category," she said.

Even as the plaudits pour in, she remains grounded. "It does come with some prestige, but I like to keep myself humble. I will take this as just another experience that has helped me build up."

Her Cairo campaign also included a silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event with Samrat Rana, reinforcing her ability to balance the contrasting demands of the 10m and 25m events. "It takes a lot of endurance, mental endurance… but all these experiences have helped me perform now," she concluded.

PRIYANKA MOHAN

Joins Multi-Star Kannada Spy Thriller

Priyanka Mohan strengthens cast of Kannada spy thriller

The buzz around the upcoming Kannada film 666 Operation Dream Theater has grown after the release of its poster and first look.

The film, starring hat-trick hero Shivaraj Kumar and Dhananjay in lead roles, has now welcomed multi-lingual actress Priyanka Mohan to its ensemble cast.

Priyanka Mohan, who gained fame across South Indian cinema with notable performances, has previously worked with stars like Power Star Pawan Kalyan, Nani, Dhanush, and Shiv Karthikeyan. She has appeared in Telugu films including Gang Leader and Saripodha Shivaramb, and Tamil hits like Doctor, TikTok, Captain Miller, and Brother.Speaking about joining the project, Priyanka said, I grew up watching Dr. Shivaraj Kumar's movies. Being part of 666 Operation Dream Theater is a dream come true. I am thrilled to work with the talented Dhananjay and portray such an exciting role. I had hoped to work with director Hemant M. Rao, but I never imagined it would happen so soon.

Produced by Dr. Vaishak J. Gowda under the Vaishak J Films banner, the film is directed by Hemant M. Rao, who also handles the action sequences.

The team has completed two phases of shooting and will begin the third in early December.

The movie's retro spy theme pays homage to Dr. Rajkumar's iconic films, with Shivaraj Kumar and Dhananjay sporting period looks.

Charan Raj composes the music, while Advait Gurumurthy handles cinematography. Senior makeup artist N.K. Uma Maheshwar and costume designer Incharа Suresh have been instrumental in creating the film's 1980s spy-world aesthetic.

Fans eagerly await this stylish spy thriller that combines nostalgia with contemporary performances, promising a unique cinematic experience for Kannada moviegoers.

Women-Centric Movie Rudha Launches Muhurta Ceremony

The muhurta ceremony of the women-oriented Rudha movie was held at the Brindavan Place of Sri Raghavendra Swamy in Sanjaynagar. Actress Anuprabhakar and Raghumukherjee clapped for the first scene and wished the Team. Kanakapura-based businessman Puttaraju is investing under the banner of KPG Visions, which is a new experience. Sharath Shidlaghatta, who has worked with many Directors and was the scriptwriter for the episodes of 'Aitalakkadi', is writing the story and directing the movie.

Varalakshi as a constable, Manasa Gowda who appears in the flashback scenes, Ratharv introduced his character as a playful middle-class boy, and a photo studio owner. Cinematography is by Raju Hemmigepura, editing is by Vijay, Creative Head R.Vijay, Executive Producer is Thirupathi Reddy. The team is ready to start shooting from the last week of November. Speaking to the media after the pooja, the director said that using a thread of a true incident that took place in the Kerala region in 2012, it is being given a fictional form in the form of a suspense thriller. Even if a small hint is given, the gist of the story is known. For that, nothing can be said right now. Rudha is a Sanskrit word and means notorious. There will be a lot of bloodshed in the film. This will complement the situations. Apart from the three main characters, experienced theatre artists are being given a chance. Sharath Shidlaghatta informed that a plan has been made to complete the shooting in one phase in the beautiful locations of Kodagu.

Shashi Kumar, Tara Reunite For Rudra Avatara Film

Senior actor Shashi Kumar has returned to the Kannada film industry after a long hiatus with Rudra Avatara, directed by Savad Mangaluru. In the movie, he plays a responsible father fighting to protect his daughter, highlighting middle-class parental struggles. The film is produced by Dr. Premanand V. Gavas under the Prem G Productions banner, with Savad Mangaluru also handling action sequences.

Recently, a teaser and a two-minute motion poster introducing the main characters were released, showcasing the cast and the film's unique aspects. Notably, this marks the 26th film featuring the celebrated duo Shashi Kumar and Tara.Speaking at a press meet, producer Premanand said, I am a businessman, but my aim is to convey a positive social message through cinema. Making this film has been a long-time wish. I loved the story shared by the director, and I also appear in a strong role.Director Savad explained, Rudra Avatara represents another form of Lord Shiva. The story focuses on how parents dedicate their lives to fulfilling their children's dreams and fight fearlessly when they face trouble. Shashi Kumar plays the central character representing Rudra Avatara. Shooting starts on November 24.Shashi Kumar added, This is not a typical hero-heroine story; here, content is the hero. I play an auto driver and father, with many heart-touching sequences. Hearing the first half of the story gave me a thrill. Veteran actress Tara said, Every role is integral; no character is just for show. I am glad to work again with Shashi Kumar and Sangitha.

Other cast members, including Sangitha, Yash Shetty, Vardhan Teerthalli, Ankitha Jayaram, and Sadhana, spoke briefly about their roles.

GV PRAKASH Joins Ajay Bhupathi's Upcoming Film

Tollywood is set to welcome Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, nephew of superstar Mahesh Babu, and Bollywood's Rasha Thadani, daughter of Raveena Tandon, in director Ajay Bhupathi's upcoming film tentatively titled AB4. The makers have confirmed that National Award-winning composer GV Prakash Kumar will score the music for the project, marking the debut of both young actors in Telugu cinema.

The makers recently shared a 42-second clip on social media featuring GV Prakash Kumar at the keyboard, with a melodious background score, hinting at the film's musical style. They wrote, Team AB4 welcomes the National Award-winning music composer gvprakash on board. Get ready for another chartbuster album from the musical magician. GV Prakash is known for his memorable scores in films like Theri, Good Bad Ugly, and Thangalaan.

On November 17, the makers unveiled the first look of Rasha Thadani, portraying her in a stylish blackout outfit sitting on a bike, suggesting her character is a biker in the film. The announcement read, Make way for the gorgeous and talented RashaThadani into Telugu cinema. Stay tuned to witness her magnetic screen presence in AB4.

The film is described as a raw and rugged love story. A poster shared by the makers introduced Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni with the tagline, From the heart of the hills… rises a love story that's raw, rugged, and real. Details about his first look and further plot specifics are yet to be revealed. Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, known for hits like RX 100 and Mangalavaaram.

Ram Pothineni Praises Co-Star Bhagyashri Borse Strongly

Ram Pothineni's upcoming film Andhra King Taluka is generating excitement as the actor gears up for its release on November 22. Directed by Mahesh Babu P., the film holds special significance for Ram, who revealed that the story is one of the most personal projects of his career. During the trailer launch, Ram lauded his co-star Bhagyashri Borse, calling her a rare talent capable of combining glamour with strong performances. After many years, the Telugu film industry has found an actress who can showcase glamour while also delivering strong performances. You have a long way to go, Bhagyashri, he said. Borse, known for her Tamil debut in Kaantha alongside Dulquer Salmaan, has also appeared in Vijay Deverakonda's Kingdom and made her Tollywood debut with Mr Bachchan, sharing the screen with Ravi Teja.

SURIYA 47 Filming To Begin December Eighth In Kerala

After much anticipation, production for Suriya 47, the highly awaited collaboration between Tamil superstar Suriya and Malayalam director Jithu Madhavan, is officially set to begin on December 8 in the scenic locales of Kerala. The film will feature Suriya as a charismatic police officer, promising a high-energy entertainer with strong mass appeal.

Reports indicate that preparations are in full swing, including set construction and location scouting. The Kerala schedule is expected to be extensive before the team moves to other locations for subsequent shoots. Talented Malayalam actors and skilled technicians, similar to those in Jithu Madhavan's previous hits Romancham and Aavesham, are likely to join the project. Actors Naslen and Nazriya Nazim are reportedly in talks to be part of the cast, though official confirmation is pending. Earlier speculation suggested filming might only commence after Suriya completed his project with director Venky Atluri, but the makers have now announced the schedule.

Suriya 47 marks the first collaboration between the superstar and the Malayalam filmmaker, generating significant excitement among fans. The film is being promoted as a full-on entertainer with action, drama, and mass appeal, highlighting Suriya in a cop avatar. Interestingly, director Jithu Madhavan's upcoming ventures have attracted attention beyond Suriya. Superstar Mohanlal revealed in a 2024 conversation with Baradwaj Rangan that he is also committed to a project with the director, emphasizing his interest in working with talented new filmmakers. Meanwhile, Suriya is preparing for his next action entertainer Karuppu, directed by RJ Balaji, expected to release before Suriya 47 hits theatres. With the December 8 start date confirmed.

Censor Board Clears Priyadarshi, Anandhi's 'Premante' Film

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has cleared director Navaneeth Sriram's upcoming Telugu romantic comedy Premante, starring Priyadarshi Pulikonda and Kayal Anandhi, with a U/A certificate. Actor Priyadarshi announced the news on X, saying, Certified U/A! Premante is all set to give you the best vibes of love and thrills! From November 21, bookings are open—grab your tickets now!

Priyadarshi, known for his strong performances in content-driven films, returns with this refreshing romantic comedy that explores love and marriage with wit and heart. Anandhi plays the female lead, while veteran anchor-turned-actress Suma Kanakala steps into a key role. Produced by Puskur Ram Mohan Rao and Jhanvi Narang under the Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP (SVCLLP) banner and presented by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media, the film has already generated excitement through its teaser and trailer. The story follows a newlywed couple whose dream of a perfect marriage is quickly replaced by playful quarrels, misunderstandings, and everyday domestic chaos.

Suma Kanakala's character, a police head constable, adds an unexpected twist, injecting humour and curiosity about her role in the couple's relationship. Director Navaneeth Sriram combines situational comedy with emotional warmth, blending relatable conflicts with sharp writing, highlighting the contrast between romantic expectations and real-life living.

The film features strong technical expertise, with cinematography by Gaddar Award winner Vishwanath Reddy, music by Leon James, editing by Raghavendra Thirun, and production design by Aravind Mule.

Dialogues have been penned by Karthik Thupurani and Rajkumar.

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